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THE TIMES

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SATURDAY MARCH 23 1996

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MAGAZINE

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Supermarkets review policy

Beef industry faces ruin as bans spread

BY CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE beef industry was staring ruin in the face last night as the world boycott of British meat and cattle spread and the European Commission declared the unilateral bans by nine EU countries legal.

As prices continued to plummet at cattle markets, the Consumers' Association gave the starkest warning yet to people to stop eating beef products, and supermarkets urgently reviewed their buying and labelling policies.

MPs alarmed by the fallout from the announcement on Wednesday that "mad cow" disease might have been responsible for fatal brain illnesses in humans set up an inquiry into the handling of the affair and summoned ministers and health experts to give evidence next week.

By then, the Government's scientific advisers should have reported on the vital question of whether it is safe for children to eat beef and the European Commission will have ruled on what measures, if any, should be taken by the EU. Tough action, and possibly an outright ban, now seems almost inevitable in the face of the continent-wide panic that has led to most members of the Community closing their borders to British beef and cattle.

The Commission will make its decision on Monday after hearing advice from its veterinary committee, and yesterday a panel of independent experts were reviewing Britain's evidence.

On Thursday, officials had said that France and other EU nations were acting illegally by imposing bans without giving prior notice, but in a sharp change of tune yesterday the Commission said that it had been mistaken since the countries had been responding to a legitimate concern over public health. That view was backed by the Commission President, Jacques Santer, whose spokesman said: "It's much more than a legal question. This is a very important public health question which concerns us all."

The Commission insisted that it would not be rushed to action, saying: "We are obviously at the peak of the reaction, so there should be no rash decisions." But officials acknowledged that pressure for radical measures was so great that the Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler was virtually obliged to fall into line with the demands for at least a temporary ban.

Herr Fischler will have to weigh up delicate political factors in reaching his decision. He will have to consider not only the scientific advice and the Commission's credibility as the guardian of European well-being, but also take into account the need to save the Community's beef industry from "meltdown" and the danger of intensifying British hostility to Brussels. "It's a hell of a painful problem," one Commission official said. "We are not going to get much sleep until this is over."

Officials are working on the likely impact of a full-blown beef crisis, which could mean a return to the food mountains that caused such public anger in the 1980s. The EU is the world's second beef producer after the United States, accounting for nearly 15 per cent of world output, and a crash in prices followed by a glut could impose a huge drain on the Common Agriculture Policy because Brussels would be forced to buy excess supplies. Under the intervention rules, the farm authorities must buy up stocks if the price falls by about 20 per cent from its recent average — cattle prices were down by up to 28 per cent at some British markets yesterday.

Officials said it was unclear what intervention could be applied to suspected British beef since the practice is to buy in meat for storage and later use. Under existing rules, beef

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Rhodesia farm gaffe puts Clarke in a stew

BY MICHAEL HARTNACK AND NICHOLAS WOOD

KENNETH CLARKE was at the centre of a Mad Chancellor scare yesterday after joking about the plight of farmers facing ruin in the wake of the BSE scare.

"The trouble is the farmers will want me to compensate them," Mr Clarke lamented loudly to Herbert Murerwa, Zimbabwe's acting Finance Minister, who was asking about the possibility of slaughtering all Britain's 12 million cattle.

The Chancellor was presumably reflecting that the likely £7 billion cost would wipe out all hope of pre-election tax cuts.

"When I was Minister of Health we managed to lose 150 people," continued a jovial Mr Clarke, in an apparent reference to the death toll from listeria outbreaks and the salmonella-in-eggs affair.

Earlier in his ten-day African trade safari, Mr Clarke had raised Foreign Office eyebrows by shaking hands with a giant yellow condom in Soweto. Yesterday, the Chancellor perpetrated an even graver solecism by blithely referring to his host country by the taboo colonial name of Rhodesia.

After a 90-minute meeting with Robert Mugabe, Mr Clarke dug deeper into one of his famous holes, by siding with Zimbabwe's blacks against the Foreign Office in a long-running row over the transfer of economic power.

MARTIN BEDDALL

Elizabeth Forsyth being led away fron Chichester Rents yesterday after being convicted of handling nearly £400,000 in stolen funds

Nadir thwarted by aide's conviction

BY ROBERT MILLER
JON ASHWORTH
AND JOANNA PITMAN

ASIL NADIR, the fugitive millionaire former head of Polly Peck International, had his hopes of a triumphal return to Britain from his home in northern Cyprus dashed yesterday when his former aide was convicted at London's central criminal court of handling nearly £400,000 in stolen funds.

Elizabeth Forsyth, 59, who oversaw Nadir's private business interests, had denied laundering money during a visit to Switzerland in 1989.

After a five-week trial it took the jury of seven women and five men 11 hours and 41 minutes to reach a 10-to-one guilty verdict on each of two counts of handling stolen money. Mrs Forsyth, who was legally aided, had returned voluntarily from northern Cyprus in September 1994 to face Serious Fraud Office questions.

As the news of the conviction reached northern Cyprus, the Nadir camp fell into a controlled fury and began preparing to launch a series of appeals. Having promised to give a press conference whatever the verdict, Nadir refused to appear. Instead Peter Dimand, the British pilot who flew Nadir out of Britain when he jumped bail in May 1993, told the press: "We'll appeal, we'll take it to Europe. We'll get them [the Serious Fraud Office] in the end, you'll see."

Mr Justice Tucker rejected an application for bail and ordered Mrs Forsyth to be remanded in custody for pre-sentence reports. She is likely to be sentenced on the two charges, which each carry a maximum of 14 years, in three to four weeks' time. The judge told her that she must "be under no illusion on the likely outcome of the sentence".

Mrs Forsyth embraced her 88-year-old mother, Margaret McAlpine, before being taken to Holloway prison in north London. As she left the court Mrs McAlpine said: "My daughter is strong and she will fight back."

Jet-setting bankrupt, page 4

GP used patients as guinea-pigs

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR general practitioner who used his patients for drugs trials without their consent was yesterday ordered to be struck off.

Geoffrey Fairhurst, 57, of Warrington, Cheshire, a member of a medical ethics committee and former justice of the peace and government adviser on health, was paid £15,000 to provide guinea-pigs for the pharmaceutical industry. A committee of the General Medical Council found him guilty of serious professional misconduct involving four patients using potentially dangerous drugs.

Sir Donald Irvine, president of the council, told him: "Trust lies at the heart of the practice of medicine . . . Where doctors intend to involve patients in clinical trials, it is essential that they first give those patients a proper explanation . . . Your behaviour has not only been dishonourable in itself, but has also placed the welfare of patients at risk."

Dr Fairhurst was reported by Dr David Edwards, his colleague at his practice in St Helens, Merseyside, who was subjected to a great deal of vitriol, the hearing was told. Sir Donald reminded all doctors of their duty to take action where they suspected colleagues of unprofessional conduct.

Dr Fairhurst was accused of forging the signatures of four patients. He was paid various sums by Glaxo Pharmaceutical and other drugs companies between 1988 and 1995.

Nicola Davies, QC, for Dr Fairhurst, said the GMC could not prove forensically who had written the false signatures on consent forms.

She was not suggesting that the patients who gave evidence were lying, but it was significant that they had all been in ill health and on different medications for many years.

School reopens in Dunblane

The children of Dunblane returned to their primary school for the first time since the massacre of 16 pupils and their teacher ten days ago. The gym where the shootings took place has been sealed and boarded up.

Ron Taylor, the headmaster, greeted his pupils and then spoke to a pool of reporters and photographers. He said the evil that had come last week had gone................ Pages 5, 23

Euro-sceptics form new body

Euro-sceptic Tory MPs have secretly formed an organisation to press for a tough line at the Turin intergovernmental conference on Europe, which starts next Friday.

Bill Cash is chairing the new body — the IGC Monitoring Group Page 2

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The rufous fishing owl

Ornithologist finds that his rare owl was bird in the pot

BY JOHN VINCENT

PHILIP HALL, a British ornithologist, was hot on the trail of one of the world's rarest owls. His hopes were high as he ventured into a village in Nigeria where the bird had been sighted.

But his excitement turned to horror when local people said they had killed the bird the previous night and eaten it that morning. All that remained of the rufous fishing owl *(Scotopelia ussheri)* was its head, some feathers and a few bones in the cooking pot.

The story of the unfortunate owl, so rare that only about 30 sightings have ever been reported, comes in a faxed message to the African Bird Club in Britain. Mr Hall, who emigrated to Nigeria from Derby 24 years ago and works for a conservation group, said in his fax that after catching a glimpse of the bird, which is about twice the size of a British tawny owl, in a forest glade near the River Niger in Edo State in 1995, he returned this year to try for another sighting.

He wrote: "Inquiries were made of local villagers to ascertain if they knew of the existence of the owl. It transpired immediately that not only were they familiar with the owl but one had been killed the previous evening and cooked and eaten that very morning.

"Unfortunately, very little was left of the bird, apart from one of its yellow legs, the decomposing head which clearly showed the yellow cere on the bill, and several dark-barred rufous primary wing feathers."

The British Trust for Ornithology said yesterday: "This is the rarest of three species of fishing owls in Africa."

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AFTER HIS MASSAGE, CARL WAS ALMOST... TOO RELAXED.

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Tory Euro-sceptics gathering for assault

By Nicholas Wood
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EURO-SCEPTIC Tory MPs are organising their forces for another assault on the Government's European policy. They have secretly formed a new organisation to press for a tough line at the intergovernmental conference (IGC) on the future of Europe, which starts next Friday in Turin.

Their move will be regarded with alarm by John Major and moderate Cabinet ministers, who suffered badly at the hands of the sceptics during the Maastricht rebellion.

Bill Cash, one of the foremost opponents of the Government's European stance, is chairing the new body — the IGC Monitoring Group.

The group, which has held two meetings attended by about 40 Conservatives, is acting as an umbrella body, helping to co-ordinate sceptic attempts to stiffen Mr Major's backbone in the IGC bargaining.

Leading members of two other key factions — the 14-strong European Research Group and the Group of Eight, made up of the former whipless Tory MPs — have attended the meetings. Norman Lamont, Sir Ivan Lawrence and John Townend, all members of the European Research Group, and Sir Teddy Taylor and Christopher Gill, formerly whipless, are among those who have been present. John Redwood, who challenged Mr Major in the summer, is also taking part.

The new group showed its teeth in Thursday night's debate on the Government's White Paper on Europe when its leading lights queued up to reject Malcolm Rifkind's stonewalling approach to the IGC. They want the Prime Minister to rule out a single currency, claw back powers from Brussels and assert national sovereignty over the European Court of Justice.

It is understood that the group met shortly before the debate to plot tactics and arguments. Despite the sceptical tone of his White Paper and his Commons speech, the Foreign Secretary was mauled by many of his backbenchers. Sceptics said the presence of one-time pro-Europeans, such as the former ministers Robert Key and Charles Wardle, at their gatherings was evidence of the anti-federalist groundswell building within the party.

☐ Labour would storm home in the forthcoming Staffordshire South-East by-election, according to a survey in the *Birmingham Evening Mail* that shows the Conservatives would probably be forced into a battle for second place with the Liberal Democrats. At the last election the late Sir David Lightbown won the seat with a 7,192 majority.

IRA dashes peace hopes by rejecting election plan

By Nicholas Watt
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party announcing the INLA's decision

The IRA dashed hopes of an imminent ceasefire yesterday when it rejected John Major's plans for elections in Northern Ireland as "unacceptable".

As the Irish National Liberation Army threatened a new campaign of violence in the wake of Mr Major's announcement, the IRA condemned the election proposals. Amid nationalist fury, a senior IRA source told BBC Radio Ulster that the plan did not have the "dynamic needed to carry all parties to meaningful peace negotiations free from all conditions".

Republicans believe that the Government and Unionists want to use elections to delay the start of all-party negotiations in Northern Ireland. Sinn Fein, which described Mr Major's plan as "anathema to nationalists", said yesterday that it had lessened the chances of an IRA ceasefire.

Mitchel McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's chairman, who was speaking before the comments by the IRA source, said: "I believe that, in these circumstances, the arguments that would be necessary to convince the IRA leadership do not emerge. They are not present."

Gerry Adams will spell out Sinn Fein's objections at his party's annual conference in Dublin tonight. However, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, yesterday dismissed them. Also speaking on BBC Radio Ulster, Sir Patrick said: "I can see no reason why a party which claims to be democratic should wish to be deterred by elections ... which are a gateway through to the negotiations that they say they wanted to take part in for so long."

Sir Patrick also struck an upbeat note when he said that no party had said it would boycott the elections. He said: "I'm encouraged to hear that nobody is saying as yet that they're not going to take part in the elections.

"Of course people in Northern Ireland want their politicians to sit down and negotiate." However, the INLA provided a stark reminder yesterday of the terrorist threat in Northern Ireland when it announced that it had placed its "units" on stand-by.

The terrorists said they would act "from a position of defence and retaliation". This was seen as a threat to the security forces and to loyalist paramilitaries if they break their ceasefire.

The republican terrorists, who have observed a de facto ceasefire since the IRA truce in August 1994, said: "We cannot look on idly as the British cynically draw out and fudge attempts at a negotiated settlement." However, the threat was also seen as an attempt by the INLA leadership to reassert its authority amid an internal feud which has claimed three lives.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, is expected today to call on the British and Irish governments to crack down on the IRA. In his first speech as leader to his party's annual meeting, Mr Trimble is likely to say that there is no prospect of the Republican movement committing itself to exclusively peaceful means and to insist that at the start of all-party talks on June 10 every political party must renounce violence, a principle of the Mitchell report.

Beef industry facing ruin

Continued from page 1

could not be bought for incineration.

And while the EU is equipped to sustain beef prices, there is no mechanism for the emergency relief of farmers who might be required to slaughter whole herds, officials said. British officials in Brussels said they would expect the EU to provide compensation.

While Commission officials were reviewing the crisis in Brussels yesterday, Britain's "mad cow" disease experts were meeting in private to answer the Health Secretary's key question: are children more at risk? Ministers have promised to accept the consequences of their answer, even if it means the destruction of the entire national herd, and a Commons statement is expected on Monday.

Stephen Dorrell will also have to answer the Health and Agriculture select committees, which have set up a joint inquiry into the whole affair. The Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, will be called, too, along with the Government's health, veterinary and scientific advisers.

The World Health Organisation's European Centre for Environment and Health is also calling for an immediate meeting of international experts to assess the public risks of "mad cow" disease, but WHO said it believed that the controls imposed in Britain were adequate. Dr Lindsay Martinez, a specialist on emerging diseases, said there was still no proven link between the condition and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans and the measures taken were prudent and effective.

Nevertheless, the Consumers' Association said the only guarantee of safety was to stop eating beef. Its director, Sheil McKechnie, said: "There is currently an unquantifiable risk in eating beef. Consumers who want to avoid the risk of BSE have no choice but to cut out beef and beef products from their diet."

Tory MP in Labour row meets critics

THE Tory MP for Leominster, Peter Temple-Morris, rejected demands from some local party activists yesterday to stand down after claims that he was out of step with Conservative ideology.

One of the leading figures on the party's left, Mr Temple-Morris, attempted last night at a constituency association meeeting to placate critics infuriated by a newspaper interview in which he suggested that, if he were entering politics now, he might join Labour or the Liberal Democrats. There was no attempt to deselect him.

NEWS IN BRIEF

National paedophile register to be set up

The Home Secretary is planning to set up a nationwide register of convicted paedophiles to prevent them attacking or working with children again. He is also to put forward plans for tightening arrangements for supervising convicted sex offenders after they are released from prison.

Proposals being studied are a new residential order and a child protection order. A judge would impose a residential order on a convicted paedophile, placing him under a lifelong duty to inform police where he lived. The child protection order would bar a convicted paedophile from working with children. ***Letters, page 23***

Queen to honour Jews

The Queen will now lay a wreath in Warsaw to the memory of Jews who died in the Holocaust. Jewish leaders had expressed disappointment that during her state visit to Poland next week the Queen would not visit any former Nazi concentration camp. But the royal itinerary was amended to include a ceremony at the Umshlagplatz in Warsaw from where Jews were sent to Treblinka.

Chinook black box call

The Ministry of Defence was urged yesterday to fit cockpit voice recorders to all RAF Chinook helicopters by Sheriff Sir Stephen Young, who held a fatal accident inquiry into the death of 25 anti-terrorist experts and four crew of a Chinook that crashed in fog in 1994. The MoD said that, partly for budgetary reasons, cockpit voice recorders and black boxes would not be installed until 1997-98.

Footballers to stand trial

Three soccer stars are to stand trial at Crown Court over match-fixing claims. Bruce Grobbelaar, 38, John Fashanu, 32, formerly of Aston Villa, and Hans Segers, 34, were committed to Winchester Crown Court with a Malaysian businessman, Heng Lim, by a magistrate at Eastleigh, Hampshire. They are accused of conspiring to give and accept money to influence match results.

Labour asked to rethink

A High Court judge invited Labour's National Executive Committee to rethink its decision to impose a candidate to fight Swindon North. Jim D'Avila, a union shop steward, had sought an injunction banning the NEC from endorsing any candidate until a new ballot had been held, on the ground that selection by committee was irrational and against the principle of one member, one vote.

Life for dog row killer

A man who murdered his neighbour because his puppy would not stop barking was jailed for life yesterday at Winchester Crown Court. Nicholas Farnell, 33, attacked Bill Pottage, 56, a factory manager, with a crowbar in front of his wife as the couple returned from a shopping trip. Farnell, a roofer, of Waterlooville, Hampshire, had denied murder but admitted manslaughter.

RSPCA warns hunters

The RSPCA told supporters of foxhunting that it was on its guard against infiltration. Hundreds of field-sports enthusiasts are said to have applied for membership in an attempt to soften the organisation's opposition to hunting. Ron Kirkby, chairman of its governing council, said: "We wish to reiterate the society's policy of total opposition to hunting with dogs."

THE TIMES ON MONDAY

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Michael Henderson at Old Trafford for Man Utd. v Spurs

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Struck-off GP ruled on ethics

Patients trusted doctor who used lover to falsify drug trial results

By Dominic Kennedy and Kate Alderson

A FAMILY doctor who was ordered to be struck off the medical register yesterday was so trusted by patients and staff that he was able to get away with his fraud for years. Geoffrey Fairhurst used his lover Debbie Barker, a research assistant, to falsify records for his lucrative drugs trials.

Dr Fairhurst was finally caught out by David Edwards, the practice partner he used to bully, who reported his suspicions of fraud to the General Medical Council.

Dr Fairhurst's patients had such faith in him that they unquestioningly accepted his explanations for his occasional odd behaviour. Constance Jerram, 74, who was confined to a wheelchair, wondered why the general practitioner seemed so keen to take samples of her blood, but never doubted that he was putting her interests first.

"I thought he was looking after me. I didn't question him. I trusted him," Mrs Jerram, a widow who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis and chronic bronchitis, told the disciplinary hearing.

"Dr Fairhurst never asked me to go into any trial or test," Mrs Jerram said. Yet he apparently signed her up for trial of two drugs in 1993. Twice in a fortnight he took three phials of her blood.

"I asked him if he was looking for something specific. He said not really. He said he was testing. That was the only time he said the word test," Mrs Jerram said. "The second time he took three more and the next visit I asked him if he had the results. He said, 'they're fine'. I never got to find out the results. He never showed me a consent form."

Fairhurst: caught out by bullied partner

Ms Barker admitted her former lover told her to put the wrong date on electrocardiogram records of patients taking part in drugs trials. "At the time I thought I would be the next Mrs Fairhurst," she said.

The ECGs had to be carried out on a specific date laid down as part of the trials. They were often carried out on other dates and she was told to backdate the records to make it look as if nothing was amiss.

To try to cover his tracks, Dr Fairhurst told a patient, Sandra Noble, that his colleague Dr Edwards was giving her husband Harry, 74, a potentially lethal drug. "I had known Dr Fairhurst for about 14 years. He had been a good doctor to me," Mrs Noble said. "He said that Dr Edwards had my husband on a study. I said is it dangerous and he said yes. He said Dr Edwards got paid for it. He said it was £500 I think. I said could it kill him and he said yes. I just went to pieces. I went home and woke my husband up to tell him about what was going on and to stop taking the tablets."

Fairhurst was caught after the unrelated death of another patient. Dr Edwards told the hearing: "Dr Fairhurst appeared to be carrying out his clinical trials in treatment time. The finances from this went solely into his private company.

"I had access to his consulting room which was next to mine but his research work was in separate offices which were kept locked upstairs. Following the death of one patient it became clear to me that patients were entered in clinical trials without informed consent."

In another attempt to cover the traces, Dr Fairhurst ordered Irene Hill, a practice nurse, to prepare fake electrocardiogram test results using a list of patients. "I did not appreciate I might have been doing something wrong," she said. "He was my boss and he told me to do it."

For ten years Dr Geoffrey Fairhurst was a member of the local medical ethics committee in St Helens and Knowsley, Merseyside.

Dr Bijoy Sinha, secretary of the local medical committee which nominated Fairhurst on to the ethics committee, said yesterday he was shocked at yesterday's finding. "I have known Dr Fairhurst for 20 years and I have always been struck by his professional integrity," he said. "That is one of the reasons he was elected on to the committee."

ADRIAN BROOKS

Bronwen Preston and Karl Long carrying their instruments from the Royal Marines School of Music, supervised by Lt Allen Head

Deal bids a final farewell to Royal Marines

By John Young

THE people of Deal in Kent, turned out in their thousands in the rain yesterday to bid an emotional farewell to the Royal Marines who have been associated with the town for more than 135 years.

With recollections of the IRA bombing which killed 11 bandsmen seven years ago still fresh, there was strict security, with cars banned from the route of the march, telephone boxes sealed and policemen searching the basement areas in front of houses. Last night's ceremony began with *Farewell To Deal*, a musical fanfare written for the occasion. There followed a musical recreation of the Battle of Trafalgar, including a spectacular display of fireworks, before the lowering of the Union Flag in the parade ground outside the officers' mess.

Bandsmen from the Royal Marines School of Music marched through the town, ending with the sunset ceremony, the traditional military farewell to fallen and departed comrades. The attachment of local people to the Marines was shown after the IRA bombing, when they raised more than £1 million for victims' families. Margaret Thatcher, then Prime Minister, said the heart of the town would be torn out if the school closed, but financial considerations have since forced a change of mind and the bandsmen will be transferred to Portsmouth and Plymouth.

Commander Philip Wilson, the school's head, said: "The barracks here can house 2,500 people but we are down to the low hundreds. It doesn't make economic sense for the politicians to keep it open."

Marianne McNicholas, who was Mayor of Deal at the time of the bombing, said: "The Marines hold a special place in British hearts, and in Deal we are fiercely proud of them." The Marines have been in Deal since 1860, when they took over a hospital for casualties from the Napoleonic wars.

On-spot fines if dogs fall foul of new law

By James Landale

OWNERS of dogs that foul public places face on-the-spot fines imposed by council workers under proposals approved by the Commons yesterday. Those who failed to pay within a fortnight could be fined up to £1,000 in court.

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Bill, which is expected to become law later this year, would allow councils to designate public areas as "mess-free zones". It would be no defence for owners to say that they were unaware that a nuisance had been caused.

At present, local authorities have to use bylaws to prosecute offenders through the courts and are deterred by the cost. The current maximum fine is £500.

The Bill, which creates a national offence, passed its final stage unopposed in the Commons and goes to the Lords. A similar Bill failed in the Upper House last year after peers expressed fears that it could be used by councils to ban hunting on some land. The new Bill closes that loophole by outlining areas where the law would not apply. They include National Parks, farmland, woods, moors and commons.

Under bylaws, councils need permission from the Environment Secretary to designate areas and can face delays of several years. The Bill, which applies to England and Wales, allows councils to designate outdoor areas themselves. Although the law would apply to private land, it would not be enforceable without the owner's consent.

The Bill was welcomed by environmental groups and "pooper-scooper" manufacturers. Steve Roby, sales manager for Happy Pet Products, said: "Lots of people are cleaning up after their dogs already, but this measure will catch people who have yet got round to doing so."

James Clappison, a junior Environment Minister, said the Bill would be welcomed by dog-owners "because they want to see and promote responsible dog-ownership".

Prosser is filmed being taken to the prison hospital

Prison suicide attempt blamed on TV film crew

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

THE governor of Dartmoor prison has accused a fly-on-the-wall television documentary crew of prompting a convicted murderer to attempt suicide in front of the cameras as a deliberate ploy to gain media exposure.

John Lawrence said he was convinced that Royston Prosser, who is serving a life sentence for murder, would not have risked his life by taking an overdose of paracetemol tablets had television cameras not been present to film the incident.

"It was a totally manipulative gesture on his part. He was clearly acting up for the cameras," Mr Lawrence said.

Prosser was filmed stuffing the pills into his mouth for a minute and a half by a crew from the independent production company Two Four. He told them he would rather take his own life than agree to be transferred to Cardiff.

Addressing the camera, he says: "I'm afraid I'm going have to take certain precautions now, I may have to take my own life ... I'm taking another 12 (tablets) now, alright? ... Some more. That's 52 tablets."

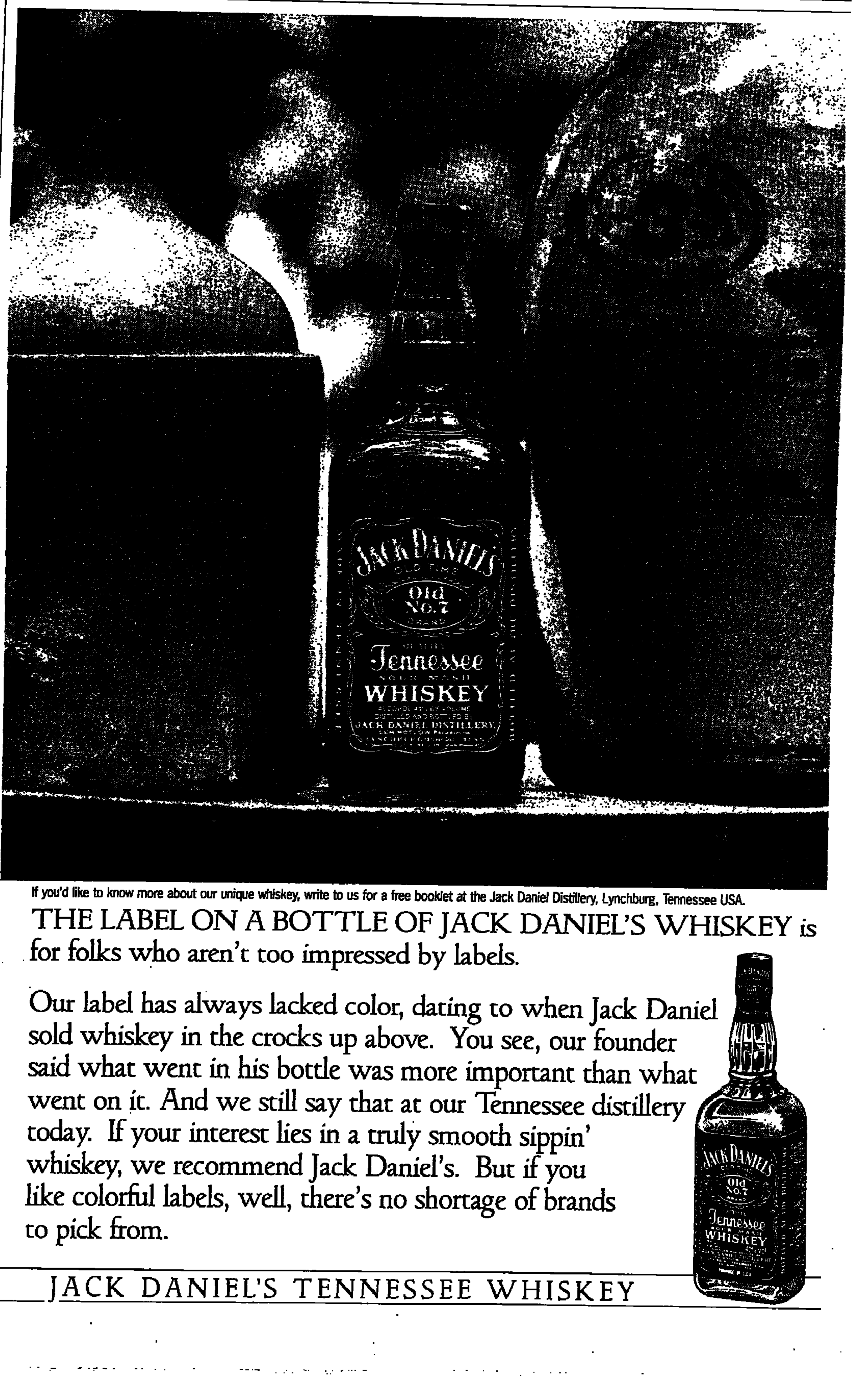
The crew claim to have saved his life by raising the alarm. They filmed him collapsing on a bench and being taken to the prison hospital wing, where he recovered. He was later transferred to a prison of his choice. Mr Lawrence said that the television crew had allowed themselves to be manipulated by Prosser, who had threatened suicide before.

He added, however, that it would have been too expensive to assign a prison officer to accompany the crew all the time. Instead they were given a set of security keys, which allowed them to move freely from wing to wing.

Don Wood, branch secretary of the Prison Officers' Association at Dartmoor, said: "The cameras create a totally false atmosphere. The prisoners only show what they want to show. The minute you bring cameras in it raises the tension. All of the banter between the officers and prisoners disappears," he said.

Mr Wood, who has 20 years' experience in the service, accused the programme-makers of behaving irresponsibly by waiting for Prosser to swallow the tablets before raising the alarm.

Andy Kemp, director of the film, which is to be shown on ITV this spring, conceded that the presence of the crew probably prompted Prosser to act when he did. "It was a golden opportunity for him that he could be caught on camera, but I have no doubt that he would have done it anyway at some point," he said.



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Downfall of woman who handled millions but failed to spot stolen £400,000 came from Polly Peck

Jet-setting banker laundered cash to pay Nadir's debts

PETER NICHOLLS

Elizabeth Forsyth in northern Cyprus before she came home to Britain in 1994. Her conviction bodes ill for Mr Nadir's hopes of returning

By Jon Ashworth
and Robert Miller

LAST night, as Elizabeth Forsyth was taken to Holloway Prison in London after being convicted on two counts of handling £400,000 of stolen money, she must have contemplated how far she had fallen.

She might remember that fateful autumn day in 1989 when her Range Rover swept through the streets of Geneva. As a former banker to Saudi princes and other wealthy foreigners, she had walked around London carrying £1 million or more in cash and was used to the vagaries of the rich. She led a jet-set life, flitting between the UK, Switzerland and northern Cyprus in her role as personal adviser to Asil Nadir, mercurial founder of Polly Peck International (PPI).

Unusual requests were all part of the job Forsyth, then 50, had taken on in June 1987. She left her position looking after "high net worth" private customers at Citibank in Berkeley Square, central London, where Mr Nadir was one of her clients. Part of the attraction was a three-year contract worth £45,000 a year, plus car and expenses.

Nadir: hired Forsyth as trusted aide

Earlier on that day in Geneva, Forsyth had received a call from Jason Davies, a former colleague from London working for Mr Nadir in Switzerland, and now believed to be in Spain. He told her that the sum of £400,000 was awaiting collection at a local bank.

What happened next would return to haunt Forsyth 6½ years later, when she went on trial at the Old Bailey after an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office. She claimed not to have noticed the name PPI on a receipt when she collected the money, packaged in bundles of £50 notes.

She saw nothing improper in paying £310,000 in cash into a bank round the corner; nor in carrying £88,050 back to London in a briefcase. Mr Davies had given her a perfectly reasonable explanation for it all, but she could not recall what it was.

Clearly, the jury of seven women and five men did not believe Forsyth, who was found guilty by a majority of 11-1. The money was transferred from PPI to Switzerland and sent back to the UK to settle Mr Nadir's private debts.

The bulk went to pay for shares purchased by A J Bekhor, a now defunct firm of stockbrokers. The rest went to buy cattle for the Baggrave estate in Leicestershire, which Mr Nadir was seeking to turn into a model of farming excellence.

Forsyth's lawyers argued that the £400,000 had been matched in northern Cyprus by local investors and had never been "stolen". But too many questions remained unanswered. Why send the money on a round trip to Switzerland at considerable expense when it could easily be transferred in London? Why carry such large sums in cash, when a cheque would have sufficed?

Forsyth's stint in the witness box did her few favours. Here was a highly articulate and intelligent woman who suffered a surprising lapse of memory when it came to this one particular transaction. Surely, as an ex-banker, she could not have failed to spot the PPI name on the receipt and would have realised something was amiss.

Her conviction bodes ill for Mr Nadir, who was hoping to use her acquittal as a "springboard" for a triumphal return to Britain. The Serious Fraud Office has 66 potential charges involving £150 million to bring. A warrant for his arrest remains outstanding.

For the jury, the burden of suspicion relating to Mr Nadir pointed to northern Cyprus and Unipac, a PPI subsidiary which made cardboard boxes. Expert witnesses said ledgers, cash books and bank statements listing cash payments into Unipac on behalf of PPI appeared genuine, but could not rule out the possibility that they had been fabricated.

The sums purportedly deposited — billions in Turkish lira — might have exceeded all the currency in circulation in the territory. Such transactions simply were not possible.

Forsyth returned voluntarily to Britain from northern Cyprus in September 1994. As chairman of South Audley Management (SAM), set up to oversee Mr Nadir's private interests, she maintained all along that she was no more than a trusted lieutenant, liaising with accountants, and purchasing cattle for Baggrave farm.

The jury clearly thought otherwise.

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The high-flyer who wanted good things but fell to earth

By A Staff Reporter

ELIZABETH FORSYTH was a City banker, horse breeder and grandmother. She dealt with the rich and powerful: those people trusted Forsyth. Doors would open to her.

Her business acumen and command of company and taxation structures brought her respect and attention.

Forsyth, now 59, remains today in awe of Mr Nadir, but people close to her dismiss suggestions of a romantic crush. "I got on well with him — very well. I respected his business acumen. His only interest was his company, Polly Peck, which had started as a family business back in the Seventies," she told the jury at her trial.

Forsyth said she had no reason to doubt Mr Nadir's honesty or integrity, but it was not the first time she had been involved with a man who later clashed with the law. Her former husband, Hamish Forsyth, a City financier, was jailed for 18 months in 1987 for cheating elderly relatives out of £23,000.

A newspaper report of the court proceedings at the time quoted his barrister, Samuel Parrish, as blaming her for squandering money. "This is a story of a weak man with a strong wife who had the inclination to spend money like water and expected her husband to provide it," he said.

"Mrs Forsyth persuaded him to move to a larger house, and she wanted him to buy horses, horse boxes, a Land Rover, ponies for her children and private school fees for her son. It's the situation where a woman pleads for money for her children's education and pleads for a house to keep up with the Joneses.

"Wives can do a great deal to manipulate a husband to a major extent and this man is a victim of such manipulation." Elizabeth Forsyth, Mr Parrish added, had now left Hamish for another man.

During the court proceedings that have just ended, it was disclosed that Forsyth had jetted across the world on Nadir family business and had spent time trying to develop Baggrave Farm, an estate in Leicestershire.

The businessman was an invisible presence throughout the trial. There was a moment when he seemed close to giving evidence in Forsyth's defence in the same court from which he fled three years ago.

Forsyth's lawyers asked for permission for Mr Nadir to give evidence by video-link from northern Cyprus, but the application was turned down by Mr Justice Tucker.

At one stage she owned two houses — one in Chelsea and another in Mrs Thatcher's family town of Grantham. As a breeder of horses, she once gained third place in the East of England Hunter Class. Forsyth, who is twice divorced, was brought up in Great Dunmow, Essex, and was educated at a private school. She is devoted to her mother, who appeared several times in court during her case. She has a son, daughter and an eight-year-old granddaughter. Her book, *Who Killed Polly Peck?*, is due to be published soon.

Swiss pair refused to give evidence

By Jon Ashworth

THE Attorney-General is to consider the case of two Swiss-based British businessmen who declined to give evidence in the case of Elizabeth Forsyth. Ian McNeil and Roger Leopard, directors of Rhône Finance in Geneva, were heavily criticised by the trial judge; Mr Justice Tucker.

Reporting on the action was prohibited until the conclusion of proceedings against Mrs Forsyth. The trial was adjourned for four days to allow Mr Leopard to attend and a live television link-up was provided in Geneva for Mr McNeil, who was said to be too ill to travel to Britain.

David Calvert-Smith, for the Serious Fraud Office, was obliged to request a further adjournment, after receiving assurances that Mr Leopard would attend a day later than planned. Television studios were kept available for Mr McNeil at a cost of £20,000.

Mr Calvert-Smith then told the judge that Mr Leopard had taken advice from lawyers in Switzerland and been warned of undesirable consequences if he gave evidence. There was a fear that his answers might breach Swiss confidentiality laws, leaving him exposed to legal action, and further fears of "some sort of reprisal". Mr McNeil voiced similar concerns. The SFO suggested measures to help them but they both declined to appear.

The court heard there must have been a strong suspicion that the pair "never intended to give evidence at all". Geoffrey Robertson, QC, for the defence, told the judge of his suspicions that they "would never turn up in any shape or form".

☐ The London *Evening Standard* and *The Independent* have been referred to the Attorney-General over "deplorable" articles at a sensitive stage of the trial.

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'After a long, dark week full of tears, today marks the beginning of our recovery'

Children's return renews hope at Dunblane school

By Gillian Bowditch

THE children of Dunblane returned to their primary school yesterday, some skipping, laughing and fighting, others sombre and clinging to their parents for reassurance.

It was the first time since the massacre of 16 pupils and their teacher in the school ten days ago that children had returned. The gym where the shootings took place has been sealed and boarded up.

Ron Taylor, the headmaster who was one of the first on the scene after the killings and who has spoken of the evil that visited the school, was there to greet his pupils. He emerged shortly after the school opened to speak to a small number of representative reporters and photographers who had gathered outside with the full co-operation of the education authorities, parents and police. "As you can imagine, this has been a long, dark week full of tears. Dunblane is still in mourning. However, the evil that came last week has gone. This is a very important day for us because it marks the beginning of our recovery. And mark my words, we will recover — I promise you that.

"I was walking around the school and I came across a group of children laughing and joking together. I went round another corner and found a couple of kids arguing. Normality is returning. We have really one priority now — to ensure our school becomes a happy place of learning once again."

He said the school would return to its usual timetable next week and after the Easter holidays teachers would expect the usual high standard of work produced by the pupils.

Not all the 700 pupils returned yesterday but Central Regional Council said no register was taken. It was a half-day and children and parents were free to come and go as they liked. Coffee was served to parents in the library and counsellors and social workers were on hand.

The first child arrived at 8.15am, a girl of about five with long blonde hair, accompanied by her parents. She skipped up the drive, eager to meet friends. A father who took his two boys to the school gates leant down, spoke to them quietly and put an arm around their shoulders before they went in.

Other pupils arrived in small groups, brothers and sisters holding hands, some clutching favourite toys. Once through the gates, many broke into a run to greet friends they had not seen for days. The children gathered at first in groups in the playground and one small group played a game of tag.

Some chatted to a policeman inside the grounds. Most of the police activity has disappeared from the school, as have the flowers and soft toys that lined the pavement. They have been taken to the cemetery, Dunblane Cathedral and a church hall.

Mr Taylor said that the flowers and cards had been appreciated. "With the help of all the people in Dunblane, whose strength has been truly remarkable, and all the good wishes we have had from everybody from all over the world, we will be a good school again." He had been overwhelmed by flowers, letters, offers of help and the thousands of teddy bears sent to the town.

Margaret Finnie, 40, the school "lollipop lady", said: "It was difficult, but I had to pin on a smile and try and keep going." She spoke of the "little gaps" in the ranks of Primary One children. "I had to keep on going for the others. We are all finding it hard, but we are coping. We can't let that man win."

Mary Blake, one of the two teachers injured in the shooting, has been allowed home by Stirling Royal Infirmary. Matthew Birnie, who suffered chest and shoulder injuries, was also discharged.

Three children and a teacher remain in hospital. Amy Hutchinson is in traction for a leg injury at the infirmary and Mark Mullan has stomach injuries. Eileen Harild, the teacher, is making progress at the same hospital. Amie Adam, who has an injury to her thigh, is recovering at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Yorkhill, Glasgow, where she was visited this week by the Princess Royal.

The Scottish Office announced that Lord Cullen's judicial inquiry into the shootings will take place in June and report in September. It will have a wide-ranging remit, with witnesses under oath. Lord Cullen will be free to make any interim or final recommendations' that he thinks appropriate.

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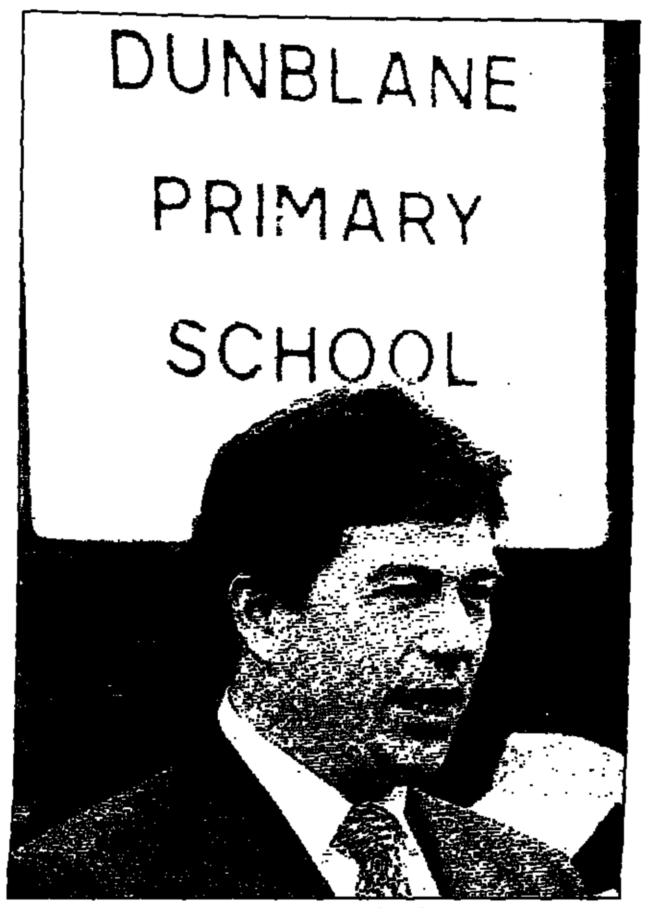

Ron Taylor yesterday: he said that his priority was to make the school a happy place of learning again

Two girls among pupils arriving yesterday for an informal half-day. Parents and counsellors were there too

Wakeham praises media's restraint

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, praised the media for its mature and sympathetic coverage of the Dunblane massacre. Speaking at a journalism awards ceremony in Bournemouth yesterday, he said: "It seems to me that yet again the press has demonstrated it can behave in a mature and responsible way.

"In reporting the terrible events at Dunblane, the press seems to have balanced correctly the public's right to know with the feelings of the grieving community. Special commendations in these circumstances can be invidious, but I would single out the Press Association for the crucial role it played in arranging and providing an effective pool service to the entire media. Their role was essential to the successful handling of the matter."

Our role is not to forgive, says Carey

By Ruth Gledhill,
Religion Correspondent

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said yesterday it was not for him or anyone else to dispense forgiveness on behalf of God to Thomas Hamilton, the Dunblane killer.

Dr Carey, preaching at St Paul's Cathedral in London, said there were always limits to forgiveness. Those limits depended on the response of the offender.

Addressing the United Guilds' service, attended by members of all 107 companies, Dr Carey said: "Sometimes after a tragedy like Dunblane, the word 'forgiveness' trips too lightly from people's lips.

"But you will note here how others cannot do the forgiving on behalf of the one who has been wronged. It is the latter who first rebukes and then, subsequently, if repentance comes, may then forgive."

Dr Carey said: "There is severe judgment for those who commit great crimes against God's little ones, who are precious to Him and infinitely valuable."

The Archbishop added: "We cannot know — nor should we speculate — what the relationship now is between Thomas Hamilton and his maker. It is not for you and me to dispense forgiveness on God's behalf or on behalf of Hamilton's innocent victims.

"What we can recognise is the heinousness of his crime and the seriousness with which God treats it. But perhaps too as Good Friday approaches we can sense afresh something of the desolation of Christ's death on the Cross. The death that brings justice and mercy together. And of Easter, which offers new possibilities."

Dr Carey said there was no future for any society with no values, "no sense of right and wrong, no concept of eternal truths and no awareness of God". He added: "If duty springs from the service we owe, then faith springs from the character of God." Faith was needed for a firm foundation of moral values.

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Organic producers call for support as evidence emerges of BSE outbreaks in Europe

Cattle farmers take stock as sales of beef plummet

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

CATTLE farmers are facing a bleak future with consumer confidence in beef plummeting and foreign countries imposing bans to keep out what is seen as an irretrievably contaminated product.

The latest scientific findings, suggesting a causal link between bovine spongiform encephalopathy, "mad cow" disease, and a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, its human equivalent, have left many feeling that life and their finances will never be the same again.

Martin Burtt, the chairman of the National Farmers' Union's livestock committee, said: "I am at my wits' end. It is getting to me personally. It is such a horrendous situation with no obvious light at the end of the tunnel."

On his 250-acre farm near Whitby in the North Yorkshire dales, Mr Burtt keeps 100 dairy cows from which he produces up to 70 calves for the beef trade every year.

"Up to 20 per cent of my income comes from the calf sales," he said. "I cannot switch to arable farming because the land here is not suitable. I could expand my flock of 200 ewes, but you need an awful lof of sheep to replace income from beef. I would probably have to increase my flock by up to 30 per cent and I do not have enough land to sustain that number."

THE FUTURE

Lowland cattle farmers appear to have more choices. Ian Gardiner, the director of policy at the NFU, said: "Technically some could switch to arable farming, but new land coming into crops would not qualify for subsidies."

One group of farmers who believe they have an answer is Britain's small band of devotees of organic methods. They believe BSE is only one of many ills that can be attributed to the growing industrialisation of farming over the past 50 years.

Patrick Holden, the chairman of the Soil Association, which represents the organic lobby, said: "BSE is the latest symptom of the breakdown of health in an industry whose practices have been violating nature for the last 40 years. Organic farming offers a way of restoring consumer confidence in food."

Organic farmers use no pestidices or artificial fertiliser. They stopped feeding all animal material to cattle, which are herbivorous by nature, 13 years ago. Had other farmers done the same, BSE might never have occurred; the disease is believed to have been caused by feed containing the scrapie-contaminated remains of sheep.

There are only 800 organic farmers in Britain, occupying less than 1 per cent of farmland. Mr Holden believes there is untapped demand for organic food and that far more farmers would supply it if the system of subsidies were not weighted in favour of conventional high-output farming.

"In some other countries much more support is given to organic farming", he said. "Austria now has 12 per cent of farmland being farmed organically. Here, over the past 15 months, £141,000 has been spent on helping farmers to switch to organic methods, compared with £2.2 billion in a single year on crop subsidies, livestock subsidies and set-aside."

ROBIN PRICE

Angela Browning, the Agriculture Minister, fielding farmers' questions at Exeter University yesterday

Hint of a smile in face of despair

By Joanna Bale

THE question to Angela Browning, the junior Agriculture Minister, was delivered in a deadly serious tone, but even the most depressed beef farmer could not help but raise a wistful smile. A farmer from Cornwall rose from his seat and politely inquired: "When I was a teenager we used to take to the dancefloor full of Double Diamond, now they go on full of social drugs. Could that be what is causing CJD in younger people?"

THE MINISTER

It was the first question in an hour-long emergency meeting with 500 farmers in Exeter and Mrs Browning's heart must have sunk. But, professional as ever, she replied: "I cannot say whether they have looked specifically at that as a causal base, but what I do know is that the CJD surveillance unit cannot identify what might make these people different to the others and it is because of this we have had to take cautionary steps."

The audience of tweed-clad farmers in their Sunday best had travelled from all over the South West to a packed lecture theatre at Exeter University for the meeting, organised by the National Farmers Union.

With a faint farmyard aroma lingering in the air, they listened attentively as the minister continued to explain that, at this stage, scientists thought only that their "may be a link" between BSE and the new strain of CJD. There was no concrete evidence, she said in reassuring tones, and the farmers remained defiant.

Time after time, the point was repeated in a variety of West Country accents: "There's no proof — it's just the media whipping up hysteria." But you could sense the despair in their voices.

OTHER CASES

Britain is not only infected country

By Michael Hornsby and Peter Capella

BRITAIN is the only country to have had a serious epidemic of "mad cow" disease in its cattle herd, but other countries have also reported cases.

Switzerland has reported 206 cases since 1990, with 19 this year. France, Germany and Portugal, which have suspended imports of British beef, have also reported cases, although those in Germany involved animals imported from Britain.

The infected cattle abroad are presumed to have eaten the same kind of feed, containing scrapie-contaminated beef and sheep offal, that is believed to have caused BSE in Britain. In the late 1980s Britain exported considerable amounts of such feed.

There has long been a suspicion that the incidence of BSE in France may be higher than admitted. France is known to have imported British feed, but it is fed mainly to pigs and poultry. The high number of Swiss cases may be due to their diligence in looking for the disease.

It is possible that vets and farmers in other countries are failing to pick up the disease because they have had less practice in recognising it.

Country	Imported from UK	Total cases
Great Britain		158,882
Northern Ireland		1,680
Isle of Man		405
Guernsey		575
Jersey		119
Alderney		2
Republic of Ireland		123
France		13
Switzerland		206
Portugal	3	31
Canada	1	1
Germany	4	4
Oman	2	2
Denmark	1	1
Italy	2	2
Falklands	1	1

The roast that made 'our soldiers brave and our courtiers good'

Historic "beefeater"

By Bill Frost

FOR more than 400 years of British history, roast beef dripping in its own delicious juices was both a culinary and cultural icon. Now an old friend has been unmasked as a deadly foe, or so most of the world would have us believe.

Beef has inspired poets, playwrights and authors from Shakespeare to Fielding, given us a name for the guardians of the Tower of London and fed generations of warriors. "Pudding and beef make Britons fight," wrote Matthew Prior in his *Alma* of 1716. Fielding agreed 25 years later when he wrote in *The Grub Street Opera*: "When mighty roast beef was the Englishman's food it ennobled our hearts and enriched our blood — our soldiers were brave and our courtiers were good."

CULTURAL ICON

History teaches that nations which lose a national dish or dietary staple through carelessness, greed or stupidity need a great deal of time to recover from the blow. Without the buffalo — slaughtered in their hundreds of thousands by American hunters — the plains Indians had neither food nor skins to make into clothes and teepees. Crushing defeat at the hands of the US Cavalry was as swift as it was inevitable.

The great potato famines of the last century in Ireland caused similar catastrophe and launched a wave of mass emigration and bitterness against the British "planters". Adulerated cooking oil killed up to 600 people in Spain in 1981 and harmed a further 25,000. Spanish olive oil was banned by France and other European countries. The bottom dropped out of the domestic market as those affected sought redress in the courts.

At the time, Spanish health authorities said it was unclear what symptoms might develop among those who ingested the contaminated oil. Years later, some sufferers developed progressive muscular and neuromuscular disability.

In 1985 catastrophe overtook the Austrian wine industry, always acclaimed for the clean and sharp bouquet of its vintages. It was no organism feeding on the vines though: unscrupulous producers were cutting the product with antifreeze to add to body and "mouth feel". A subsequent scandal in Italy, involving the use of methanol, killed 21 people but, strangely, it was the Austrians who bore the brunt of continuing consumer hostility and suspicion.

What threatens British beef this weekend is a far more damaging prospect: the rest of the world lined up implacably against a dish central to our national life and as typical of our image abroad as the bowler hat and the bulldog.

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Top restaurants are standing firm over beef dishes in face of international reaction

Supermarkets act to calm fears among shoppers

By Carol Midgley

THE CONSUMER

Blanc: hoping for the death of beefburgers

THE Co-op announced yesterday that, for the first time in its 150-year history, it was considering buying beef from abroad in an effort to allay consumer fears over British produce. Tesco said that it would relabel every one of its own-brand products to alert customers to whether they contained beef, gelatin, suet, lard, stock or gravy.

However, some of the country's best-known restaurants continued to serve beef, declaring "absolute confidence" in the quality of their meats. Some removed offal-based products and steak and kidney pie from the menu but said their customers' desire for beef had been undimmed by the panic.

Today information leaflets will be handed to customers in every Tesco store and each customer service desk will offer lists of beef-free products. The Co-op, which has 3,000 stores, insisted that, although it was not deserting the British beef industry, it had to be realistic about consumer demand.

"We will be looking at providing alternatives because we recognise that this particular problem will result in consumers switching to other products," a spokesman said.

"There is an opportunity to import beef from abroad from Australia, New Zealand and South America." He added that while other foreign cuts of meat, such as lamb, had been stocked on Co-op shelves for some time, beef had always come from Brtitish producers.

"It is something we are looking at very carefully. But while there may be a BSE problem in British beef, we have to make absolutely sure there are not other problems in other countries.

"It will be at least four weeks before we foreign beef would be in our stores. We must be sure that it's not a case of 'out of the frying pan, into the fire'." Tesco was busily relabelling own brand food which might contain hidden beef derivatives not immediately obvious including fruit flavour gums, chicken wings in spicy tomato marinade, seafood cocktail, iced buns, and jellies.

A spokesman said that Tesco's beef came from 18 suppliers, 11 from Britain and the remainder from Ireland. Country of origin was clearly market on all its products.No decision had yet been taken to buy beef from elsewhere, but David Sawday, the company's corporate affairs manager, said: "We are monitoring what our customers want.

There had been a marked decrease in sales of beef and an upsurge in poultry, fish and chicken sales.

A spokesman for Sainsbury's said that all its beef came from Britain and Ireland but "all of our buying policies. are under review". The company was also reviewing its labelling policy.

Sales figures for yesterday were not available although he said that there was a "noticeable decline" during the December scare and "the same will happen".

A similar turning away from beef is not being experienced in restaurants and Jamie Younger, second chef at Bibendum, the west London restaurant owned by Sir Terence Conran, said: "We expected the beef dishes to be pretty unpopular last night but we sold absolutely loads."

Raymond Blanc, dynamic creator of Le Manoir aux Quat Saison, at Great Milton, Oxfordshire, said: "I will certainly not be taking beef off my menu because I use only the finest cuts from Aberdeen Angus cattle which have enjoyed good food, a good life and natural rearing, none of this nightmarish animal feed that has caused this problem.

"However I will say that if this scare spells the death of the beefburger I will be helpless with joy."

Antony Worrall-Thompson, owner of six London restaurants, is also keeping his high-quality beef on offer and has changed his menu to preface beef dishes with "grass fed ox meat". He has also erected signs on his six restaurant windows declaring "BSE-free zone".

"I have suspended my staff from eating the meat pies they used to enjoy and have told all the restaurants not to use cow's offal. We are also testing squirrel and alligator meat, which might make a change for some."

As an alternative to beef for the Sunday roast this weekend Mr Worrall-Thompson recommended wild boar, water buffalo or ostrich meat.

At Simply Nico, in Victoria, London, prime beef cuts from Scotland were being kept on but plans to introduce an oxtail dish this weekend had been cancelled.Nico Ladenis, the chef and proprietor said: "I do think the whole thing is getting out of hand. People are still slipping on banana skins and dying on the roads —we have to keep things in perspective."

The Savoy said it would continue to serve beef. At the Ritz, beef was not on the menu anyway. "Spring lamb is the seasonal meat," a spokesman said.

JACKY NAEGELEN/REUTER

A Paris butcher displaying a sign reading "No English offal here. Eat French", as fear spreads over "mad cow" disease, rendered in a variety of languages below

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MARZO 1996 L. 1500

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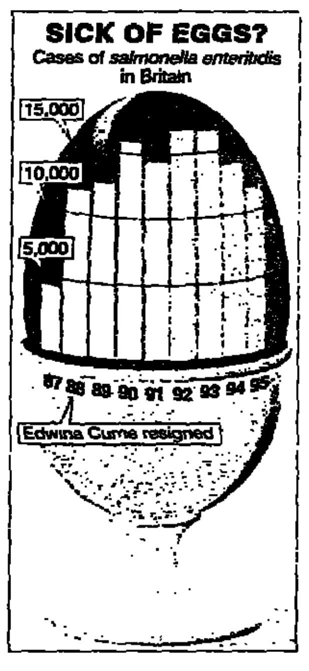
German: Rinderwahnsinn
Italian: malattia delle mucche pazze
Spanish: mal de las vacas locas
Dutch: gekkekoienziekte
Swedish: galna kosjukan
Danish: Ko-galskab
Finnish: hullun lehman tauti
Portuguese: doenca as vacas loucas
Greek: trelles agelades
Zulu: akugula kwezi nkomo ezihlanyayo
Afrikaans: malkoeisiekte.

Bitter replay of the last big food scare

By Andrew Pierce

SALMONELLA



THE number of cases of salmonella poisoning, which triggered a crisis in the British egg industry in 1988, has risen sharply after ministerial pledges to eradicate the bacterium. Despite a battery of environmental health regulations, the incidence of *salmonella enteritidis*, the strain prevalent in poultry, has increased virtually every year since the eggs fiasco.

Food poisoning is at the highest level since records began in 1949, with 80,000 cases last year compared with 63,000 for 1992. The number of cases has risen fivefold over the last decade. An increase in eating out, takeaways and beefburger bars is thought responsible.

Figures released by the Public Health Laboratory Service show that *salmonella enteritidis* remains as virulent today as in 1988. In 1987 there were 4,962 known cases. In 1988, the year the crisis erupted, the total had risen to 12,522 and it reached 17,000 in 1992. It eased back to 14,000 in 1994 and 12,500 last year. Figures for this year are expected to be around the same level.

Salmonella hit the headlines in December 1988 when Mrs Edwina Currie, a junior Health Minister, was asked to comment on a ban on the use of eggs in 25 Devon hospitals in response to previous government warnings. It was one fateful remark which brought her down: "We do warn people now that sadly most of the egg production in this country is infected with salmonella."

Stephen Dealler, a consultant macro-biologist, wished Mrs Currie had been in the Ministry of Agriculture. He said: "The truth about BSE might have come out sooner. We have been here before. When the Government knew about salmonella in egg production they intially denied there was any infection. But they were forced on the defensive when Edwina Currie blurted out the truth."

The salmonella in eggs fiasco has disturbing parallels with the BSE affair. In 1988 there was a sustained public debate over the feeding methods of farm livestock. The consequences for the industry were devestating. In 1987 there were 15,608 egg producers; today the number has virtually halved to 8,979.

Andrew Oakley, the chairman of the United Kingdom Egg Producers Association, said: "My life flashed in front of me when I heard about the BSE scare. Just like the beef producers, the first we knew about it was when we heard it from the media. But this is much more serious . . ."

Mrs Currie rejects assertions that the Government's handling of the BSE scare had been a public relations disaster. "Ministers have this time shared the information with the public . . . They are much more open than they were eight years ago when I was in the firing line."

But Max Clifford, the public relations guru, thought the last week had been the biggest disaster since salmonella. "It is a catastrophe. They are helping to destroy yet another British institution: the Sunday roast."

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QUOMODO COGIS COMAS TUAS SIC VIDERI?
?
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ABBOT ALE
FROM GREENE KING

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The final chapter

‘Kingsley became vehement, stared at me bullfrog-eyed and said ‘No’ in that especially emphatic way of his: he would not say it had been a good life. If I thought his novels and poetry compensated for his anxiety and depression, I was wrong . . .’

A second exclusive extract from the Amis Diaries, by Eric Jacobs — News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Commons crusader for the disabled to retire at election

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

ALF MORRIS, a leading campaigner in postwar politics, announced last night that would retire from Parliament at the next general election.

He said: “I had thought and hoped that the next election would come sooner. But as this Parliament could now go its full term and the next promises to do so as well, I feel it will be best for me not to seek re-election. Better to go five minutes too soon than five years too late.”

Mr Morris, MP for Manchester Wythenshawe for 32 years, will be 68 today. He played a key role in the attempts to compensate the victims of Thalidomide, to improve war widows’ pensions, to assist those harmed in the Barlow Clowes scandal and to help haemophiliacs infected with HIV and hepatitis C from contaminated NHS blood products.

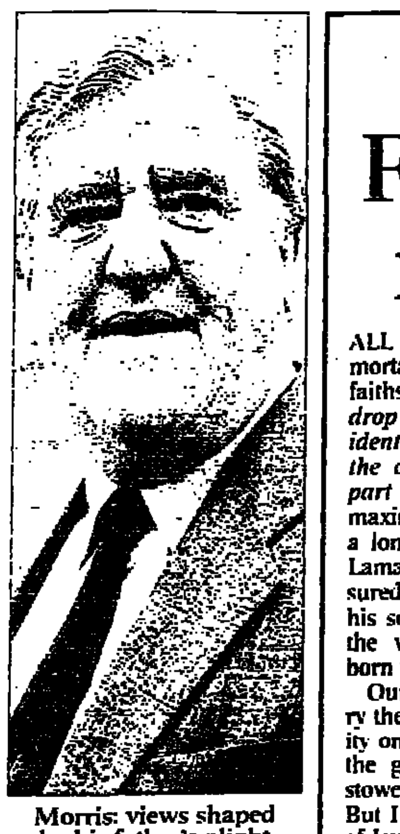
His most abiding legacy, however, will be the transformation he brought to the lives of Britain’s 6.5 million disabled people. His Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Bill, which became law in 1970 and was regarded as a breakthrough in basic rights for the disabled, was the first legislation of its kind in the world and was copied by many countries. Later, as the first Minister for Disabled People, he brought in the mobility allowance, the invalid care allowance and the disabled housewives’ allowance.

In 1991 he also drafted the Civil Right (Disabled Persons) Bill to outlaw discrimination on grounds of disability, the full implementation of which remains the target of groups representing disabled people.

Mr Morris, who used a Private Member’s Bill to repatriate to the people of Australia the original of their constitution, has been awarded both the Order of Australia and the Queen’s Service Order by the New Zealand Government. He has been a Privy Counsellor for 18 years and remains the chairman of the managing trustees of the parliamentary contributory pension fund.

He told his constituency party last night that his decision had been taken with regret, but promised to continue doing all he could to hasten the return of a Labour government and to advance the causes to which he had devoted his parliamentary life.

Mr Morris’s determination to be a champion of the disabled owed much to the experience of his father, who was injured in the First World War and suffered many disabilities from severe leg injuries to partial blindness, as well as the effects of poison gas. George Morris later found it impossible to find work and died at the age of 44 in 1935 as, in the words of his son, “one of the tubercular poor”.



Morris: views shaped by his father’s plight

The family of Irene Morris, the MP’s wife, had similar experiences of disability and poverty and on becoming an MP his understanding of the plight of the disabled was heightened by observing the problems of many of his constituents.

Mr Morris is leading the campaign to help veterans of the Gulf War and their families, suffering from what they say is Gulf War syndrome.

Credo

Forget immortality: our reward is in the deed

Albert H Friedlander

ALL religions promise immortality. Some Eastern faiths offer a minimum: *the drop of water which is your identity will fall back into the ocean and live on as part of it.* There is also the maximum offer. I once spent a long day with the Dalai Lama, whose disciples assured me that upon his death his soul would reappear in the world within a child born that very second.

Our Western religions carry the teaching of immortality on their books as one of the great offers to be bestowed upon the faithful. But I look into he treasury of Jewish teachings and find this is a troublesome, often difficult, teaching.

We all want to live for ever — but on our own terms. The “resurrection of the dead” can be reserved for the righteous, since we clearly number ourselves among them. And it *will* be for them, as the inducement that religion offers to those who accept the Bible’s teachings and walk the right way. If immortality is offered to all people as a basic component of the soul, the wicked’s immortality is confined to a hell described in loving detail by Dante, Milton, or by the fire and brimstone preacher of the village.

Most Jews will reject the notion of Hell as inconsistent with reason and faith. Judaism teaches firmly that our jurisdiction does not extend beyond the grave. We must place our trust in God as the final judge. And hating the dead is a self-destructive exercise.

On the other hand, loving the dead and hoping that there will be compensation for their suffering in an eternal afterlife is one of the comforts offered by faith in a world after the Holocaust and the genocides that have swept so many lives into the mass graves of our time.

Today religion cannot afford to bolster its ethical teachings with a package of rewards. Judaism has always been firm in its teachings that a “mitzvah”, a good deed, begets another one; and that an evil action becomes its own punishment. Immortality can and will be a comfort to us in our flawed and suffering lives; but it should not be linked to our moral actions.

There must be more to life than a short moment of awareness. We do not want to be rewarded with immortality, but we do need almost infinite time to come to terms with improving the world and ourselves. In due course, the master of the house will call out: “Time, gentlemen and ladies, please!” But who is in a hurry?

Rabbi Albert H. Friedlander is Dean of Leo Baeck College and Rabbi of the Westminster Synagogue

Preacher of the Year

HUNDREDS of sermons have been entered for *The Times*/College of Preachers Preacher of the Year award. Entrants have until Easter to submit a typewritten text for the contest, which is in its second year.

Sir Ludovic Kennedy, the broadcaster and atheist, and John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, will again judge the final at Southwark Cathedral on October 30. Five finalists will be selected after the preachers of 30 shortlisted sermons are visited in their churches and parishes. The winner’s sermon will be published in *The Times*.

At her blessing, Weekend, p3

☐ *Last year’s 30 shortlisted winners can be read in* The Times Book of Best Sermons *(Cassell, £9.99)*

THE TIMES

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READERS are invited to submit nominations or nominate themselves for The Times/College of Preachers Preacher of the Year Award 1996. The winner will be presented with a specially commissioned sculpture to be displayed in his or her church. Send the completed entry form below with a typed manuscript not exceeding 3,000 words to: The Preacher of the Year Award 1996, The College of Preachers, 81 North Road, Bourne, Lincs PE10 9BT (01778 422929), to arrive by April 10, 1996.

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Judge will decide on the right to end life

By Jeremy Laurance

DOCTORS treating a woman who has been in a persistent vegetative state for more than four years have been told they may apply to a judge for permission to withdraw artificial feeding and allow her to die.

In the first case of its kind in Scotland, five senior judges at the Court of Session in Edinburgh ruled yesterday that Lord Cameron of Lochbroom could make the decision whether to end Janet Johnstone's life. The doctors at Law Hospital, Carluke, Strathclyde, are supported by Mrs Johnstone's family.

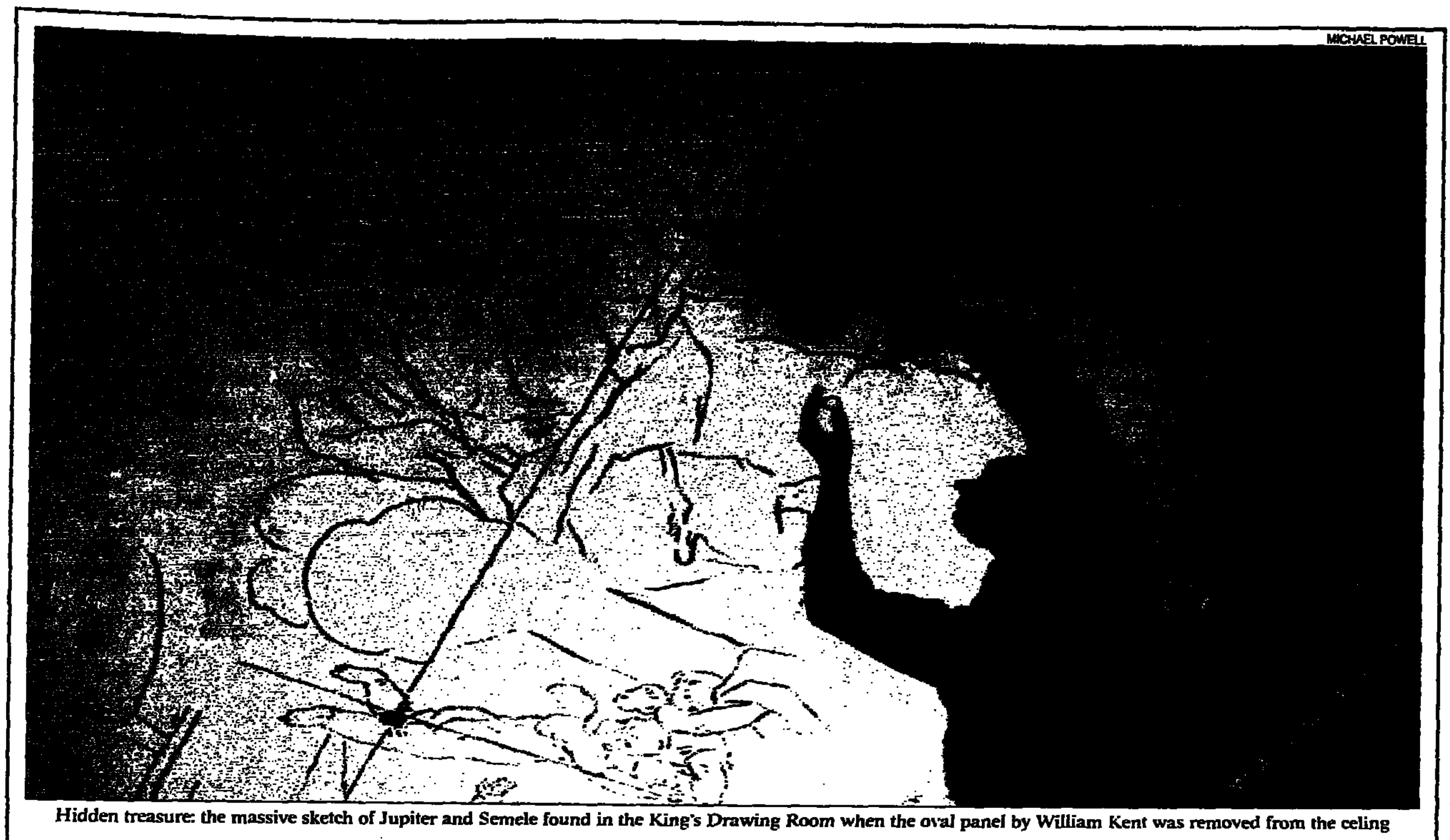
The judges said that Lord Cameron's ruling would cover the doctors only against the civil law and not against criminal prosecution. That could be provided only by a public statement by the Lord Advocate, Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, Scotland's senior law officer. He said he would make a statement.

The case has added to confusion over people in a persistent vegetative state after details emerged this week of a patient who allegedly recovered awareness after seven years. At one stage hospital staff considered applying to the High Court to have his artificial feeding withdrawn, but when he was transferred to the Royal Hospital for Neurodisability in Putney, southwest London, staff there realised that he was able to communicate.

In a second case a brain-damaged musician, Geoffrey Wildsmith, 21, told police through a computer that he was attacked on a late-night train nearly two years ago.

The Royal College of Physicians issued the first clinical guidelines on the condition yesterday, but said that they may already be out of date.

The guidelines say that a diagnosis should be made only when a patient has been in a continuing vegetative state for more than 12 months after a head injury, or six months after other causes of brain damage. A vegetative state is one in which a patient has cycles of eye closure and opening which may simulate sleep and waking but who shows no awareness of self or environment.



MICHAEL POWELL

Hidden treasure: the massive sketch of Jupiter and Semele found in the King's Drawing Room when the oval panel by William Kent was removed from the celing

Spring clean puts art experts in the picture

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

A MASSIVE, previously unknown 1720s line drawing has been discovered under an oval ceiling canvas in the King's Drawing Room at Kensington Palace. It was uncovered when the panel that had covered it for more than two centuries — a depiction of Jupiter appearing to Semele — was removed for extensive cleaning.

Both images are the work of William Kent (1685-1748), the architect and interior designer, who painted canvases in various parts of the palace. In removing the panel, curators were taken aback to find that the sketch is an almost exact replica of the canvas, except for a yapping spaniel added to the final composition.

Nigel Arch, director of the state apartments at Kensington Palace — which boast a collection of Van *Dycks and Tintorettos* — said curators assumed that the artist was trying out the scale of the canvas. Otherwise, he suggested, he was planning to paint on to the plaster, but decided it was easier to paint at ground level and then attach the work to the ceiling.

Kent studied painting between 1709 and 1719 in Rome, where he met Lord Burlington, who became his influential patron. In 1719, Kent completed Ricci's unfinished paintings in Burlington House, now the Royal Academy. He worked at Kensington Palace between 1722 and 1727.

Mr Arch said that Kent displayed acute business acumen in securing the commission. It was meant to have gone to another artist, Sir James Thornhill, whose estimate for the job came to £800 — "a lot of money in the 1720s", Mr Arch said. "The Vice-Chamberlain thought that was too much." Kent, seizing his chance, said he would do it for £500 and won the commission, even though Thornhill quickly reduced his price to the same level.

The ceiling panel will be returned to its position, covering up the drawing until the next time it needs to be cleaned. The King's Drawing Room is among state apartments open to the public from May 1 until the end of September.

☐ A watercolour painted in 1801, one of only two panoramic views of London by Turner, is expected to fetch £60,000 at Christie's in London on April 2. The painting, *London: Autumnal Morning*, features cows on Clapham Common in the foreground, looking over Vanxhall towards Westminster and St Paul's.

The painting has been in private ownership for most of this century. Andrew Clayton-Payne, watercolour specialist at Christie's, described the work as "magnificent". It was one of only four exceptionally large watercolours exhibited by Turner at the Royal Academy in 1801, the year before he was elected a full Academician.

Curators had no idea what was hidden behind Kent's painted ceiling at Kensington Palace

Dull skies spoil view for comet watchers

By Nick Nuttall

ATTEMPTS to see the brightest comet for centuries will be frustrated this weekend by cloudy skies over most of the country.

Astronomers planning comet-gazing parties are pinning their hopes on cloudless skies for the evening of April 3. By chance a lunar eclipse will occur on that night, which should make Hyakutake's comet flash like a brilliant jewel in the night sky.

Professor Mark Bailey, director of the Armagh Observatory, who saw the comet with his naked eye last weekend, said yesterday: "The eclipse is at midnight on the night of April 3. The moon will become blood red and we might get quite a dark eclipse as the full moon fades." The eclipse should last 90 minutes.

Professor Bailey said the brightness of Hyakutake, named after the amateur Japanese astronomer who first saw it, meant that everyone in Britain should be able to see it "inching" across the horizon. He said binoculars would be worth taking to comet-watching parties to help to distinguish between the head and the fuzzy tail.

Enthusiasts are advised to contact libraries for the telephone number of a local astronomy group to find out where and when telescopes are being set up. Some universities and observatories, including Armagh, are organising Hyakutake-watching evenings, using their 16in and 10in telescopes.

Other advice is to leave urban areas, to avoid the light pollution that makes it harder to see even a bright object such as a comet. Dr John Mason of the British Astronomical Association said that Hyakutake would be closest to Earth on Monday night — at 10 million miles away.

It will be visible until the end of April, after which it will continue its celestial journey, returning to within sight of Earth again after another 1,700 years.

Dr Mason said: "In mid-April, with clear skies, the comet should be a splendid sight in the northwestern sky an hour after sunset and should exhibit a very fine, long, tail."

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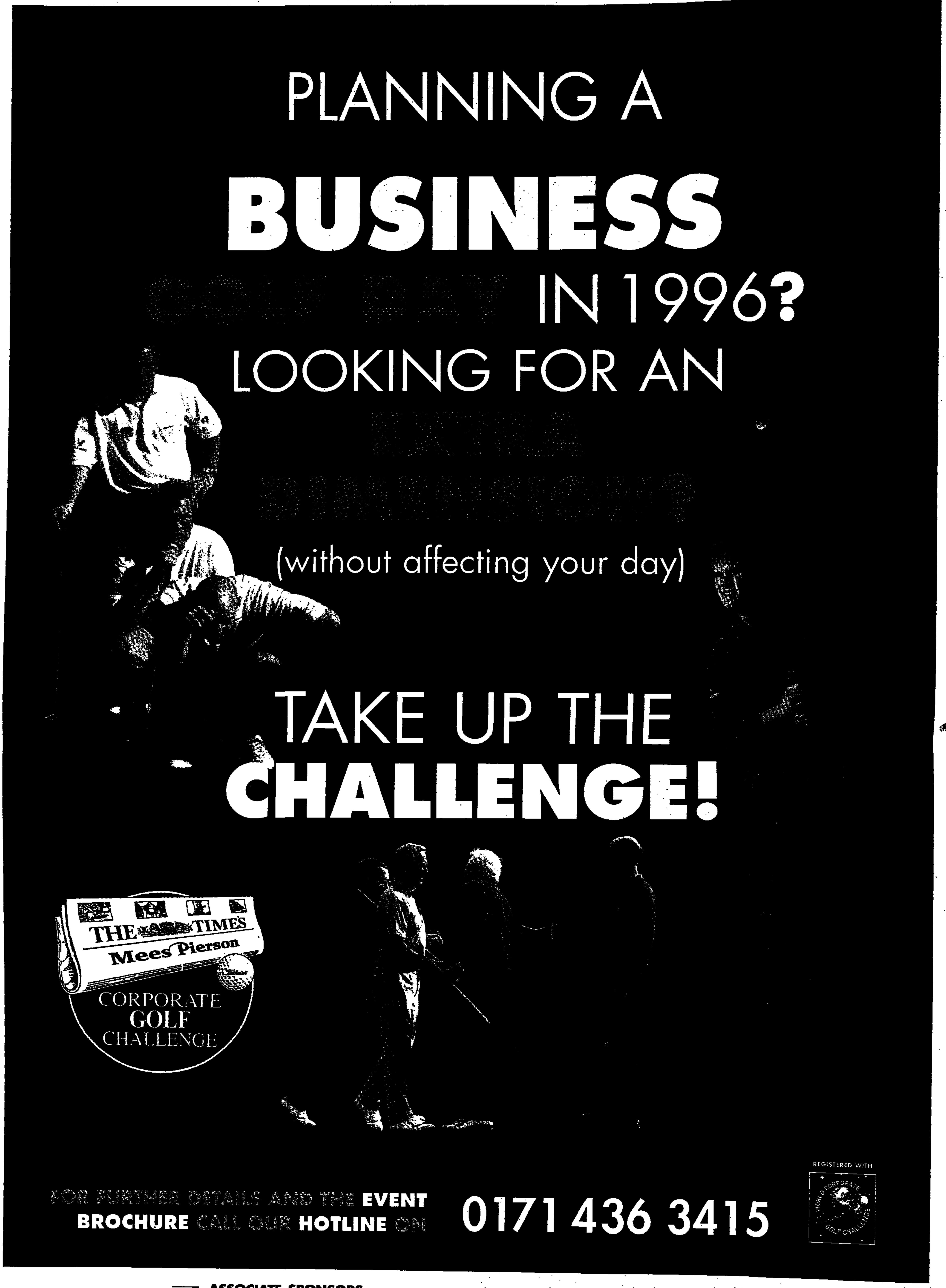

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Day of rest turns into a hagglers' paradise

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

CAR boot sales, where cash is king and haggling the order of the day, are transforming the British Sunday.

In the first academic study of the phenomenon, researchers have found that more than a million people every weekend are shunning the piped music and security cameras of the shopping arcade in favour of the carnival atmosphere of the car boot sale.

Unlike the superstore, car boot sales offer "an excursion into curiosity and discovery. It is both a potential impromptu antiques fair and a jumble sale. Quite simply one just does not know what one might find there," said the report, which was funded by the Government's Economic and Social Research Council.

Haggling for goods, providing the thrill of pitting wits against canny salesmen, emerged as a main reason for the popularity of sales. The average buy costs £8.

They attract people of all ages and social class, the researchers claim. About 40 per cent of those who go are employed "scotching the myth that the car boot sale is the preserve of recessionary Britain's underclass", the report says.

Car boot sales are also increasingly important for the environment as goods get recycled, it is claimed. But the study says that the essence of these sales is under threat from local authorities worried that trading standards are being flouted and that business is being sucked from council-owned markets and malls. "However, any attempt to regulate them will kill off one of their principal attractions, namely their carnival spirit and lack of conventionality", the report's authors, Dr Nicky Gregson of the University of Sheffield and Dr Louise Crewe of the University of Nottingham, say.

"In many areas the Sunday morning landscape of Britain has been transformed. Fields, stadia, school playgrounds and car parks are taken over by row upon row of cars and by hordes of potential buyers," they note.

The study, based on a survey of 300 buyers and sellers in Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire and the northeast of England, shows that sellers make £90 on average, but in some cases up to £800 at weekends.

The most popular purchases are children's clothes, followed by DIY equipment, videos, baby equipment, kitchen utensils and records.

In a separate survey, the researchers found a growing mood among councils to regulate the fairs. Of 350 local authorities questioned, many are considering ways to make organisers obtain planning permission while others may charge high licensing fees.

Leading article, page 23

JOHN PAUL PHOTOGRAPHY

Alan Watson and his family in front of their solar-powered home at the Findhorn Foundation. Plans to expand have angered villagers

Villagers rail against 'New Age Vatican'

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

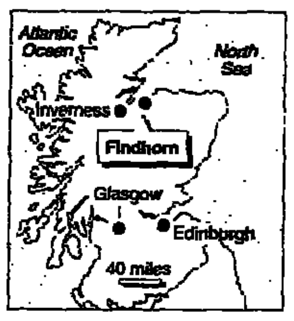
TO MILLIONS of New Age followers they represent a better way of life, but to villagers they threaten to swamp a small community on the Scottish coast.

The Findhorn Foundation, near Forres, Grampian, has become known as the "Vatican of the New Age" whose alternative vision attracts 11,000 people each year from across the world. But such adoration is not matched among locals, who say their traditional culture is in danger of being swallowed as it expands.

The parties are about to clash over the foundation's plans to build another 40 permanent dwellings on a five-acre site it has acquired adjacent to its caravan park. The planning decision will be the first test of the new Moray Council, which comes into being on April 1. The foundation already has outline permission for five dwellings.

Leading the opposition is Sir Michael Joughin, 69, a former chairman of Scottish Hydro-Electric and now chairman of the Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council. He has lived in Morayshire for 50 years and in Findhorn, where he farms, for 13 years.

He says villagers have been ignored as the foundation expands. "They have gone from seven people in the beginning to around 500. They already have 100 permanent dwellings and have expanded into nearby Forres.



The village is in danger of being submerged. They don't get involved in village life."

Sir Michael says that the foundation numbers "some pretty rum chaps among them" and has no local recruits.

Glenn Walters, press officer for the foundation, says the community has a turnover of £1 million and spends £800,000 a year locally. He says the foundation has only 100 permanent residents at Findhorn, a figure disputed by Sir Michael.

"The foundation is an international and cosmopolitan centre in the middle of a conservative and parochial Scottish community. There will always be a degree of conflict. If we attempt to get involved with the local community we are branded as interfering. If we don't, we are isolationist.

"We are not a cult or a sect. We represent a collection of loosely held beliefs. Sir Michael Joughin does not speak for everyone in the village."

The community was founded in 1962 by Peter and Eileen Caddy, who initially lived in a battered caravan, which has since become something of a shrine, and started growing vegetables in the thin sandy soil. The vegetables flourished, with tales of 40lb cabbages, and so did the community.

Peter Caddy, who died in a car crash two years ago at the age of 76, was an eccentric who prospered in the morally experimental climate of the Sixties. The foundation's early growth was built on Eileen's "channellings" or messages from "the God within".

From there grew a philosophy of living in tune with nature. There is no set creed or ideology and the community cheerfully embraces many different religions. It has built ecologically sound dwellings and last year hosted an international environment conference.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NHS staff seek 6.5% pay rise

Health unions are demanding a 6.5 per cent pay increase for 800,000 workers ranging from nurses and ambulance crews to porters. About 18 unions have joined forces in submitting joint local pay claims.

Restructuring has meant that there are now more than 500 employers within the NHS. The unions also want a £4.14-an-hour minimum for all staff and progress at ending short-term contracts and the use of temporary staff.

Lottery handout

The National Maritime Museum in Greenwich has received a National Lottery grant of £11.8 million towards its Neptune Court extension, a £19.6 million gallery to be completed in time for the millennium celebrations.

Princess flies out

The Princess of Wales is flying to the island of Barbuda in the Caribbean today for a holiday with Prince William and Prince Harry. They are booked into the £1,800-a-night K Club, which has relaxed its "no children" rule.

Singer chosen

The Australian-born singer Gina G was confirmed as Britain's entry to the Eurovision Song Contest with her dance number *Just A Little Bit*. Her song, co-written with the dance team Motiv8, was chosen from a field of eight.

Family reunion

A brother and sister separated 56 years ago by adoption have discovered they live in villages three miles apart in Hereford and Worcester. Peter Stanton, 58, spent 30 years searching for Jenny Fletcher, 57. Their children had been friends.

Don't sniff at our boffins, they're winning by a nose

BY NICK NUTTALL

SCIENTISTS have developed an artificial nose so sensitive that it can distinguish the aromas of Colombian and Brazilian coffee. The device, one of several electronic "smelling" technologies that have put Britain to the forefront of artificial nose research, is the creation of scientists at Southampton University.

It has an array of sensors linked to a computer that attempts to mimick the human nose. Dr Martin Grossel, of the university's chemistry department, said scores of uses were planned, including monitoring the health of cattle from their breath. He added: "Companies that make anti-perspirants actually employ people to sniff armpits. This would be a better way of doing it."

The Southampton nose can distinguish between different wines and cheeses. A nose developed by the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology has sniffed out truffles, outwitting a trained pig during trials. Similar sensors are used by brewers for quality control.

At the Highland Psychiatric Research Group in Craig Dunain Hospital, Inverness, scientists are trying to develop electronic noses to diagnose human diseases. Researchers have linked odours on people's breath or from sweat glands with diseases ranging from cancer to ulcers.

Dr George Dodd, a pioneer in artificial nose research, believes that hospitals may one day have booths like telephone boxes filled with sniffing sensors. Patients would be exposed to the sensors for a few minutes and if a suspect airborne chemical were detected, the patient would be referred to a doctor for fuller tests.

Researchers at Cornell University, New York, have developed a prototype artificial mouth, a blender-like device that mashes food and detects the chemicals present. Allied to the British nose, the technology could create a robot wine-taster.

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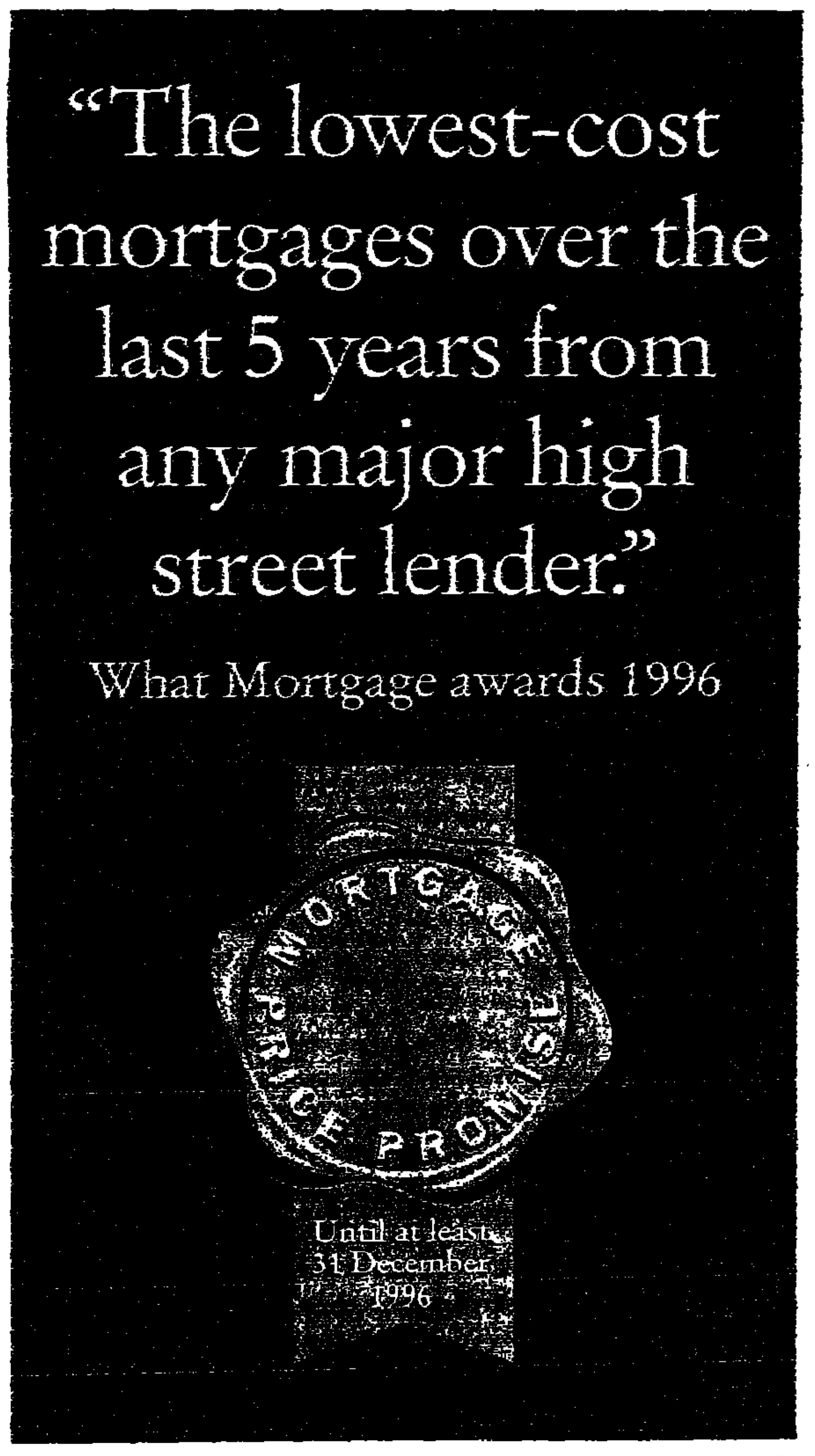

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Heaney is fêted in France

Paris: Seamus Heaney, the Nobel prize-winning Irish poet, was made a Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters yesterday and praised as a vital cultural link in Ireland's divided society (Ben Macintyre writes).

Presenting him with the award, Philippe Douste-Blazy, the French Culture Minister, said that Mr Heaney had "grown up between unionists and nationalists, defining yourself as part of both worlds, which remain irreconcilable, a cause of spilt blood even now". Speaking in French, the 56-year-old poet said that when he was given the Nobel prize in December he was "walking on air". With the latest honour, "that walk continues".

"This is a sort of benediction," Mr Heaney said, adding that as the former home of Irish writers such as Oscar Wilde, James Joyce and Samuel Beckett, France was "a haven for Irish artists".

Seamus Heaney laughs as the medal presented to him in Paris yesterday by Philippe Douste-Blazy falls to the floor

UN envoy urges war crimes judges to study Srebrenica evidence

Bosnia massacre confirmed

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

THE United Nations human rights investigator in the former Yugoslavia has confirmed that at least 3,000 Muslims were murdered by the Bosnian Serb Army after the fall of Srebrenica last year, according to a French news report.

"Recent indications tend to confirm the allegations that the Bosnian Serb forces massacred at least 3,000 Bosnians [Muslims] and probably many more in the region of Srebrenica in July 1995." Elisabeth Rehn, a UN envoy, was quoted as saying in a report to be presented shortly to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

The investigator also uncovered evidence of massacres by Serb forces near Ljubija in 1992 and at Sanski Most in northwest Bosnia-Herzegovina last October, according to the newspaper *La Croix*, which published extracts from the report yesterday.

However, with about 8,000 people still missing from the former UN "safe haven" of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia, the report acknowledged that many questions remained unanswered. In the 71-page report Ms Rehn, a former Finnish Defence Minister who visited Srebrenica last month, said she hoped that the war crimes tribunal at The Hague would "obtain adequate means to investigate these allegations ... and will finally be able to resolve uncertainties in these areas".

The leaked report coincided with the unveiling of the first indictments against Bosnian Muslim suspects at The Hague and a visit to the site of a mass grave in Serb-held territory near Srebrenica by Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador to the UN.

"It's the most disgusting and horrifying sight for another human being to see," Ms Albright said after touring the site near the village of Janja. She was accompanied by an American forensic expert and Admiral Leighton Smith, the Nato peacekeeping commander in Bosnia.

The site, where Muslims from Srebrenica were allegedly transported and massacred by Bosnian Serb forces, was identified using aerial surveillance photography. The area is one of several suspected mass graves.

The war crimes tribunal released indictments yesterday against three Bosnian Muslims and a Croat accused of murdering Bosnian Serbs at Celibici prison camp prison camp in southern Bosnia. Two of the four accused — Zdravko Mucic, who is believed to be the former camp commander, and Zejnal Delic — were arrested in Austria and Germany respectively this week. The Bosnian Government has pledged to apprehend the remaining two men.

The tribunal has so far indicted 57 suspects, almost all Serbs, including General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military commander, and Radovan Karadic, the Bosnian Serb leader, prompting accusations that investigators were singling out Serbs for punishment while ignoring Bosnian Serb victims of the war.

In her report, Ms Rehn reportedly criticised parts of the Dayton accord, which brought more than three years of fighting to an end, arguing that the agreement paid too much attention to ethnic distinctions. "Some aspects of the accord are disturbing, notably the point which defines the eligibility for the presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina and, among other criteria, the nationality of candidates," she said.

☐ **Briton killed:** A British soldier has been killed in a fire in his barracks in Bosnia. Lance-Corporal Chris McLeish, 24, is believed to have been crushed to death when the roof of the barracks collapsed.

Hillary Clinton flies to Tuzla

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

HILLARY CLINTON, accompanied by her daughter Chelsea, 16, is flying today to Tuzla in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where on Monday she will meet US troops in what critics consider an effort to improve her tarnished image. Mrs Clinton will be the first President's wife to visit forces in a hostile environment without her husband since Eleanor Roosevelt in the Second World War.

During the ten-day trip, the First Lady will meet President Demirel in Turkey and then travel to Greece to see the lighting of the flame for this summer's Atlanta Olympics. Aides said they hoped pictures of Mrs Clinton boosting the morale of American soldiers and guiding her daughter around Europe's ancient sites would improve her standing just as did her 1995 trip to Asia with Chelsea.

Mrs Clinton has been hounded by congressional Whitewater committees, and subpoenaed to appear before a federal grand jury.

Yeltsin wins open support from US

From Richard Beeston in Moscow

THE Clinton Administration dropped any pretence at impartiality in Russia's forthcoming presidential elections yesterday when Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, gave an unsubtle plug for President Yeltsin's re-election campaign.

Speaking at a press conference after meeting the Russian leader in the Kremlin, Mr Christopher left little doubt that Washington will be using all its weight to help President Yeltsin to stay in power against a strong challenge from Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader and front-runner in the polls.

"I am sure that President Clinton will come here to follow basically the line that he has followed ever since the beginning of his presidency, and that is to support the reforms and support those who are enthusiastic about reform and those who are carrying out reforms," Mr Christopher said. "That has brought him into strong support for President Yeltsin on prior occasions."

Although there had been concerns that Mr Christopher would find himself at odds with the Kremlin over Nato's expansion plans, the Americans and Russians clearly decided to put their differences on hold for the time being. Instead, the two sides concentrated on areas of agreement, such as fighting terrorism, pursuing arms control deals and laying the groundwork for a summit, planned for Moscow next month, of the G7 group of industrialised nations to discuss nuclear safety.

Mr Christopher's words of support came after similar remarks made in Moscow recently by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and the pro-Yeltsin Chirac Government in France. Although President Yeltsin is trailing Mr Zyuganov in the polls, Western powers appear to have decided to back him as long as he remains in office.

Nevertheless, the Americans have kept their channels open to the Communist leadership and last night Mr Christopher was hosting a dinner at the American Ambassador's residence for several leading Russian politicians, including Mr Zyuganov.

Tribunal names suspects

LIST of the 57 men accused of war crimes:

Four suspects named yesterday by the war crimes tribunal in The Hague, who include the first Muslims accused of committing atrocities, were:
Zejnil Delalic, 48; Zdravko "Pavo" Mucic, 51; Hazim Delic, 31; Esad "Zenga" Landzo, 23.

Of the remaining 53, accused of "serious violations of the Geneva Conventions", "violations of the laws or customs of war", "crimes against humanity" or "genocide", three are in custody:
Djordje Djukic; Dusko Tadic; and Goran Lajic.

The 50 others still at large are: Zlatko Aleksovski, Mirko Babic, Nenad Banovic, Predrag Banovic, Tihofil (Tihomir) Blaskic, Goran Borovnica, Mario Cerkez, Ranko Cesic, Damir Dosen, Dragan Fustar, Zdravko Govedarica, Momcilo Gruban, (first name unknown) Gruban, Nikica Janjic, Goran Jelisic, Radovan Karadzic, Dusan Knezevic, Dragan Kondic, Dario Kordic, Milojica Kos, Predrag Kostic, Dragan Kulundzija, Miroslav Kvocka, Milan Martic, Ratko Mladic, Zeljko Meakic, Slobodan Miljkovic, Milan Mrksic, Dragan Nikolic, Nedjeljko Paspalj, Milan Pavlic, Milutin Popovic, Dragoljub Prcac, Drazenko Predojevic, Miroslav Radic, Mladen Radic, Ivica Rajic, Ivan Santic, Dragomir Saponja, Zeljko Savic, Dusko Sikirica, Blagoje Simic, Milan Simic, Pero Skopljak, Veselin Sljivancanin, Miroslav Tadic, Nedjeljko Timarac, Stevan Todorovic, Simo Zaric and Zoran Zigic. (*AFP*)

Mme Chirac: father of her child is a judo star

Chirac is a grandfather

Paris: President Chirac became a grandfather for the first time yesterday when his unmarried daughter and close political adviser, Claude, gave birth to a boy (Ben Macintyre writes).

Despite the furore surrounding the late François Mitterrand's illegitimate daughter, *la vie privée* is considered just that, and yesterday's news merited just a few terse lines from the main news agency, Agence France-Presse. Sources at the Elysée Palace confirmed that the father is Thierry Rey, world judo champion and a television sports commentator.

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Pentagon calls off untimely trip to Washington by Communist Defence Minister

China-America rift widens as Taiwan prepares to vote

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE presence of two American aircraft carrier groups off Taiwan — with the *USS Nimitz* expected to arrive this weekend — has complicated Peking's calculations in the crisis in the Taiwan Strait.

Although neither China nor the United States are seeking a direct confrontation, their relations plummeted further last night after the scheduled visit to Washington by the Chinese Defence Minister was postponed. In a sign of the steady decline in dialogue between the two sides, both claimed to have made the decision to suspend next month's visit by General Chi Haotian, who was to have toured US military installations.

The Pentagon said that William Perry, the Defence Secretary, had determined that "a large-scale official visit was not appropriate in the present climate". China's Xinhua news agency also took the same line.

The worsening relations come as Taiwanese voters go to the polls today to take part in the first-ever direct presidential election, about which few mainland Chinese have any information.

Communist China has imposed a news blackout and its media have only been reporting Peking's vitriolic denunciation of Lee Teng-hui, the incumbent Taiwanese President.

China is also continuing with its military exercises in

WAR GAMES

the northwest section of the Strait, close to Taiwan's outlying islands, although poor weather has forced it to scale back the war games, not due to end until Monday.

The military manoeuvres are designed to put pressure on Taiwanese voters not to back Mr Lee, whom Peking accuses of plotting to pursue independence for Taiwan. But reports from Taipei say the Communist firepower has had the opposite effect, and Mr Lee and the pro-independence party are likely to gain.

Diplomats here believe that in the present period of heightened tension, the US will not send the *Nimitz* and her escorting vessels through the 125-mile-wide Strait, an international waterway. "That would be regarded in Peking as too provocative," a Western envoy said.

Diplomats here believe Peking had not expected Washington to respond so strongly to Chinese threats towards Taiwan, because President Clinton in 1994 severed the connection between China's most favoured nation status and progress on human rights and related issues. Since then, Peking has thumbed its nose at Washington.

"China was getting used to having its own way and was surprised by the strength of American reaction," one envoy said yesterday. "This upset their plans, and they have had to take the factor of strong American counter-measures into their calculations."

He said China would keep its options open after the election, but there were likely to be more "routine" military exercises in the Taiwan Strait. "This issue is not going to go away," the envoy added.

At the same time, Peking is likely to resume links with Taipei which has about 100,000 businessmen operating in China.

Shen Guofang, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman, indicated in his regular news briefing on Thursday that China would be able to resume contacts with whoever won the presidential elections — presumably, including Mr Lee — provided he ceased his perceived push for independence. He emphasised that there should be no confrontation between Chinese people.

It is no surprise that the Communist media have not reported on the substance of Taiwan's election, even though it is the first time in 5,000 years that Chinese voters have had the luxury of picking a president from among four candidates.

One Chinese matron here said: "I have been able to listen to [President] Lee on shortwave radio. Otherwise I would have had no idea, from reading the Peking newspapers, of what the election was all about."

> ❛ China was getting used to having its own way and was surprised by the US reaction ❜

Island nation, page 22

Taiwanese soldiers on alert on Matsu, an island ten miles from mainland China

Lee throws down gauntlet to Peking on eve of poll

FROM DAVID WATTS AND JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

PRESIDENT *Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan made Peking an offer it could only refuse: "We want China unified — is freedom and democracy." Since Mr Lee is certain to be re-elected as President today, his suggestion that if Peking wants to talk, it must become democratic, will enrage Chinese leaders.*

UNIFICATION

Mr Lee said that Taiwan's economic and political miracles had come about during years "in the shadow of war". Mr Lee's Mandarin runs a poor third behind his native Taiwanese dialect and the Japanese he learnt during the war. However, his message was plain: "No matter what the other side has done, it has not disturbed our minds and it has concentrated our strength. And we have achieved political reform without bloodshed."

Lien Chan, Mr Lee's runningmate and present Prime Minister, looked forward in terms Peking will find more promising. Negotiations must begin as soon as possible, he said. The foundation must be small, non-governmental or neo-governmental agencies that discuss matters such as shipping links. Mr Lien hinted that a peace treaty would solve many problems. Earlier, Peng Ming-min, presidential candidate of the Democratic Progressive Party and Mr Lee's most dangerous opponent, made not the slightest gesture towards reunification. Mr Peng is the champion of those who say that, ethnicity aside, Taiwanese are not Chinese. There is no need to proclaim de jure independence, he says, because independence has been a fact for decades.

He also made offers to Peking, however. "Because we make no ridiculous, suicidal claims to rule Tibet and Mongolia," Mr Peng said, "we would be the friendliest neighbour China ever had. We have much to offer them."

Antonio Chiang, one of Taiwan's most perceptive commentators, said yesterday that, despite their differences, Mr Lee and Mr Peng represented the mainline position here that Taiwan must stand up to Peking's pressure.

Six miles proves to be too far for peace

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN QUEMOY

TWO days ago Chen Siyang and five other county councillors from Quemoy decided to visit Xiamen, just six miles across the narrow Taiwan Strait which separates them from mainland China.

They wanted to explain to their Chinese neighbours, who once regularly shelled their island, that they wanted peace. However, they were firmly rebuffed and Mr Chen now says: "Everyone on this little island sees what a bully China really is."

To travel six miles — the mainland is clearly visible from their island — Mr Chen and his colleagues first had to fly to Hong Kong via Taipei, and then to Xiamen.

"We knew our island was in the front line," said Ouyang Yinmu, another councillor. "So we thought we could talk about peace in Xiamen. But when we got there they said it was not the right time, we

ENVOYS

were not high-ranking enough, and maybe we could come back after the election [being held today]."

Mr Chen said: "We never thought they'd turn us away. This wasn't an act. We wanted to show them Quemoy's love of peace. What we got was cruel, ruthless behaviour."

Many of the fields here are studded with tall cement columns topped with sharp metal points, intended to impale mainland paratroops. Towers stand at crossroads with soldiers on top manning anti-aircraft machineguns. Tanks stand under trees. Soldiers from the 30,000-man garrison are digging trenches in the red clay and there are hundreds of miles of tunnels crisscrossing the island in which troops can shelter for months. Yesterday the island was on readiness three, two down from full-scale war.

The island is dotted with memorials to the soldiers and civilians who endured the artillery bombardment from the mainland in 1958.

WORLD SUMMARY

Hardliner to manage Sweden

Goran Persson, who took over yesterday as Swedish Prime Minister, signalled his aim to continue tough austerity measures by appointing as Finance Minister Erik Asbrink, a hardliner who has criticised Sweden's high taxes (Michael Binyon writes).

Mr Asbrink takes over as Sweden is struggling to reverse a 13 per cent budget deficit, qualify for European monetary union, and cut 12 per cent uneployment.

In a *Times* interview last week, Mr Asbrink admitted the passing of the old "Swedish model [of social welfare] ... People know there is no way back."

Yeltsin in talks on Belorussia

Moscow: Russia and Belorussia came closer to reunification yesterday after the countries' leaders met to discuss terms for a union treaty (Richard Beeston writes).

In a move that could bolster President Yeltsin's popularity before presidential elections in June, he met President Lukashenko in the Kremlin. Opposition MPs have condemned the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Russians step up Chechen assault

Moscow: Russian troops backed by artillery and warplanes stepped up their assault on rebel positions in southern Chechenia, in a move that has claimed hundreds of casualties (Richard Beeston writes). Moscow said 28 soldiers had been killed and 86 injured. Chechen figures were unavailable.

Greeks defend airport security

Athens: Greek authorities rejected claims by the US Transport Department that state-run Athens airport did not meet acceptable security standards (John Carr writes). Athens is anxious not to disrupt its lucrative tourist trade.

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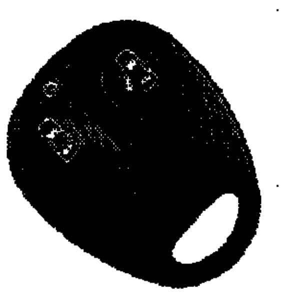

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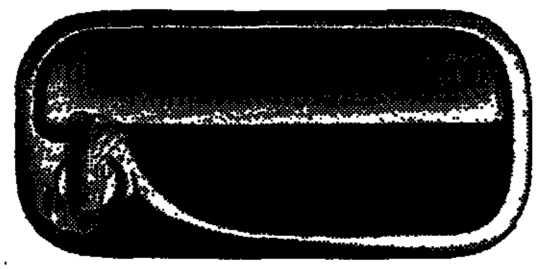

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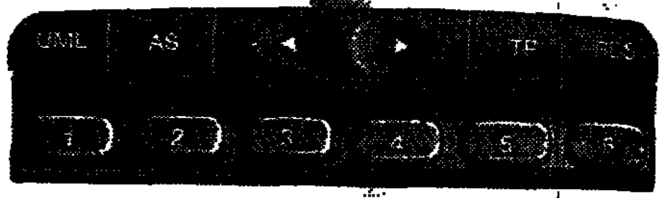

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Mandela urges halt to KwaZulu violence

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA yesterday called for a new strategy to combat political violence in KwaZulu/Natal after the massacre of 11 people highlighted the fragility of recent peace initiatives in the province.

Gunmen attacked two rural homesteads in Donnybrook in the KwaZulu/Natal Midlands on Thursday night, shooting dead seven women and three men. A two-month-old baby died after being smothered by one of the victims.

Police have confirmed the motive for the attack was political: all ten adults were supporters of the African National Congress. Since the mid-1980s, members of the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party and ANC have fought a war in the province, leaving at least 15,000 dead. Levels of political violence dropped after the first democratic elections in 1994 but have risen again recently.

Observers have noted the connection between political events and political violence. The massacre in Donnybrook occurred a few hours after Mr Mandela launched the ANC's campaign for the May local government elections in the province. The polls had to be postponed last November because of disputes over district boundaries, and the latest killings may be a foretaste of violence in the run-up to the elections.

The ANC yesterday called for more troops to be sent to the province. The party has pointed fingers at Inkatha and Zulu traditional chiefs, suggesting a political strategy under way to disrupt the election. An Inkatha spokesman said the province could expect trouble from both sides.

While security efforts have made important strides in advancing the peace campaign, on a political level the picture is not rosy. A week ago, Mr Mandela was booed by the province's chiefs when he suggested at a meeting that Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, should not be elevated above the Zulu King. Plans to set a date for broader peace talks fell by the wayside as the two sides failed to find common ground.

Inkatha has recently made efforts to undermine the influence of King Goodwill Zwelithini. Chief Buthelezi, who wants virtual autonomy for KwaZulu/Natal, draws much of his support from powerful tribal chiefs.

Last April he stormed out of negotiations over the constitution, and often uses language that critics say incites violence. Behind this lies Inkatha's concerns that the ANC is making inroads in the province, particularly among the less traditionalist youth.

President Mandela announced yesterday that he had met his ministers of Safety and Security, Justice and Defence to consider a new strategy to deal with violence.

Police reject plot claim

Johannesburg: Political analysts have expressed scepticism over a claim by President Mandela that elements within the police force were planning to overthrow his ANC-led Government (Inigo Gilmore writes).

At a rally in KwaZulu/Natal, where the ANC launched its campaign for May's local government elections, Mr Mandela said there was still a tendency among different population groups to think in terms of race. "We still have powerful elements in this country planning every day to overthrow this Government," he said.

Police Commissioner George Fivaz said it was inconceivable that the post-apartheid force could seek to overthrow the Government. The new force was "absolutely committed to the new democratic order".

Paul Keating, left, the former Labor Prime Minister of Australia, shows his conservative successor, John Howard, around the Lodge in Canberra, the official prime ministerial residence, before moving out

Villagers rescue Briton in Somalia

BY JAMES BONE

A BRITON and four colleagues abducted in Somalia were freed by armed local villagers who heard about the kidnapping on the BBC World Service, United Nations officials said yesterday.

William Condie, a Unicef security officer from Hereford, was seized with four UN officials from Nepal, India, Sudan and America while waiting for a flight out of Somalia on Thursday.

The UN team, which was making its weekly three-day visit to the war-torn country, was surrounded by about ten armed men at the Balidogle airport, 56 miles southwest of Mogadishu. UN sources say the kidnappers were led by a disgruntled contractor named Omar Dini Hosh, from whom Unicef had hired vehicles. The UN agency cancelled the car-hire contract last week after paying off Mr Hosh. He decided that he wanted more compensation and abducted the UN team in retaliation.

The area around the Balidogle airport, now Somalia's principal port of entry, is controlled by General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the warlord who led an uprising against UN peacekeepers in 1993 and effectively forced them out of the country.

As soon as the local authorities heard of the kidnapping, they called for residents to intercept the armed men and free the UN staff. The people of a village about 20 miles from the town of Qoryooley heard about the incident on a BBC radio broadcast and set out to save Mr Condie and his companions.

At least one boy was wounded in the ensuing gun battle late on Thursday, but the five UN staff were rescued unharmed. They spent the night in a UN vehicle that had set out to find them and were expected to return to Nairobi tomorrow.

Those abducted with Mr Condie were Ismail el-Azhari, Nasim Ahmed, Deen Kaphle and Robert Hagan.

Israeli sues false prophet of spring

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AN ISRAELI mother of three is suing the country's leading television weatherman for an inaccurate forecast that she alleges caused her to catch flu. She says that she dressed too lightly after hearing his assurances of rising temperatures.

"The case is, as far as I know, without any precedent here and is certain to provoke intense interest," said David Saville, a leading English-born Israeli lawyer. "My guess is that the plaintiff will probably lose on the ground that the forecast was a prediction rather than a cast-iron prophecy."

The disgruntled Haifa resident filed her petition in the Small Claims Court after Danny Roup, the award-winning weatherman on Israel's Channel 2 Television, predicted on a clear evening recently that the next day would be spring-like and sunny.

The plaintiff dressed in light clothes. The weather turned out to be wet and wintry, however, causing the woman to come down with flu, miss several days of work and forcing her to spend money on what she claimed in her petition was expensive medecine.

She blamed Mr Roup and is demanding £640 for missed days of work and mental anguish. She is also claiming for the cost of the medicine and wants Mr Roup to make a public apology.

"The Small Claims Court is attached to the 'Peace Court', the magistrates' system which is based on British law," Mr Saville said. "The Israelis are about the most litigious race, per head of population, on Earth — but this is the first time that I have heard of anyone suing a TV weather forecaster."

Britain frees Kenya aid

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

KENYA yesterday ended its pariah status among donor nations as Britain gave its seal of approval for Nairobi's economic recovery plan and released £5 million in aid that had been frozen since 1994.

Britain's approval is likely to encourage other donors to release £385 million, also pledged in 1994, to help Nairobi soften the blow of a World Bank economic restructuring programme.

The seven biggest donors, including Britain, met Kenyan officials in Paris yesterday. Donors have been concerned that President Moi would renege on pledges to liberalise the economy. Moreover, about £327 million in aid money vanished from the treasury.

The current plan calls for privatisation of state-owned companies, civil service cuts and an anti-corruption drive.

The country has got to the stage where patients are sleeping three to a bed in hospitals without drugs and schools are short of books.

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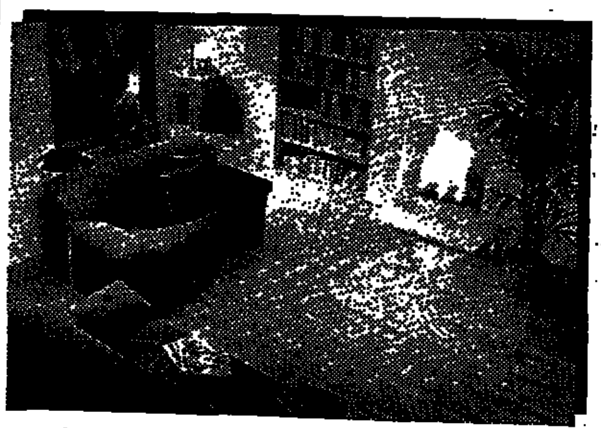

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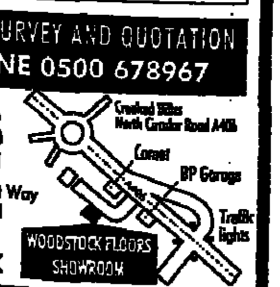


WOODSTOCK MAKE HARDWOOD FLOORS AFFORDABLE

Jackson mobilises protests against Oscars 'race bias'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

JESSE JACKSON, the civil rights activist, is planning demonstrations in cities across America during Monday's broadcast of the Oscars ceremony to draw attention to the fact that only one of the 166 Academy Award nominees is black.

Taking his cue from an 11-page report in last week's *People* magazine accusing Hollywood of "institutionalised racism", Mr Jackson held long meetings with show business leaders on Thursday, threatening to picket television stations that will be broadcasting the Oscars ceremony.

The report came as a severe embarrassment to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which administers the awards and considers itself a paragon of political correctness and public relations knowhow. Blacks make up 9 per cent of the American population and, as enthusiastic filmgoers, 25 per cent of the nation's cinema audience. However, fewer than 200, or 3.9 per cent, of the 5.043 academy members who vote on the Oscars, are African-American, the magazine found.

Jackson: met show business leaders

Mr Jackson, apparently unaware of the discrepancy until the article was published, has leapt into the fray with vigour. "It doesn't stand to reason that; if you are forced to the back of the bus, you will go to the bus company's annual picnic and act like you're happy," he told the *Los Angeles Times*.

Three celebrities who will be acting happy, however awkward they may feel underneath, are Oprah Winfrey, Whoopi Goldberg and the producer Quincy Jones, all blacks with prominent roles in the broadcast but all attending as hosts rather than contenders. In what appears to be a strenuous effort to compensate for blacks' under-representation among nominees, the academy changed producers for the broadcast for the first time in six years, inviting Mr Jones to replace Gilbert Cates.

Ms Goldberg is returning as master of ceremonies after David Letterman's widely criticised performance last year. Ms Winfrey, the talkshow host, will announce the nominees' arrival to a worldwide television audience of about a billion.

Notable performances by blacks which Mr Jackson and others claim the academy has ignored unfairly include those by Angela Bassett and Whitney Houston in *Waiting to Exhale* and Denzel Washington's role as a private eye in postwar Los Angeles in *Devil in a Blue Dress*.

☐ **New York:** Records are being set for television advertising on this year's Oscar awards broadcast.

ABC television charging $795,000 (£518,000) for a 30-second spot during the programme, the network said Friday. Advertising for the presentation, which is all sold, fetched 16 per cent more in revenue than last year. *(AFP)*

New York dog's life is envy of the poor

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORKERS spend as much on their pet dogs as the average Third World country gains from its trade exports. New figures suggest that the Manhattan dog lover last year paid more than $5,000 (£3,200) each on Butch, generating $1 billion in business for the pet trade and matching the foreign trade earnings of Guatemala.

The minimum annual cost of keeping a dog in New York was estimated by the American Kennel Club yesterday at $1,250, which covered food, veterinary bills, grooming, basic training and treats (bedding, toys, chocolate drops and fashion items).

Few owners do without the services of a dog walker, who exercises your pet while you are at work. At $15 a day, five times a week for 50 weeks a year, this added $3,750.

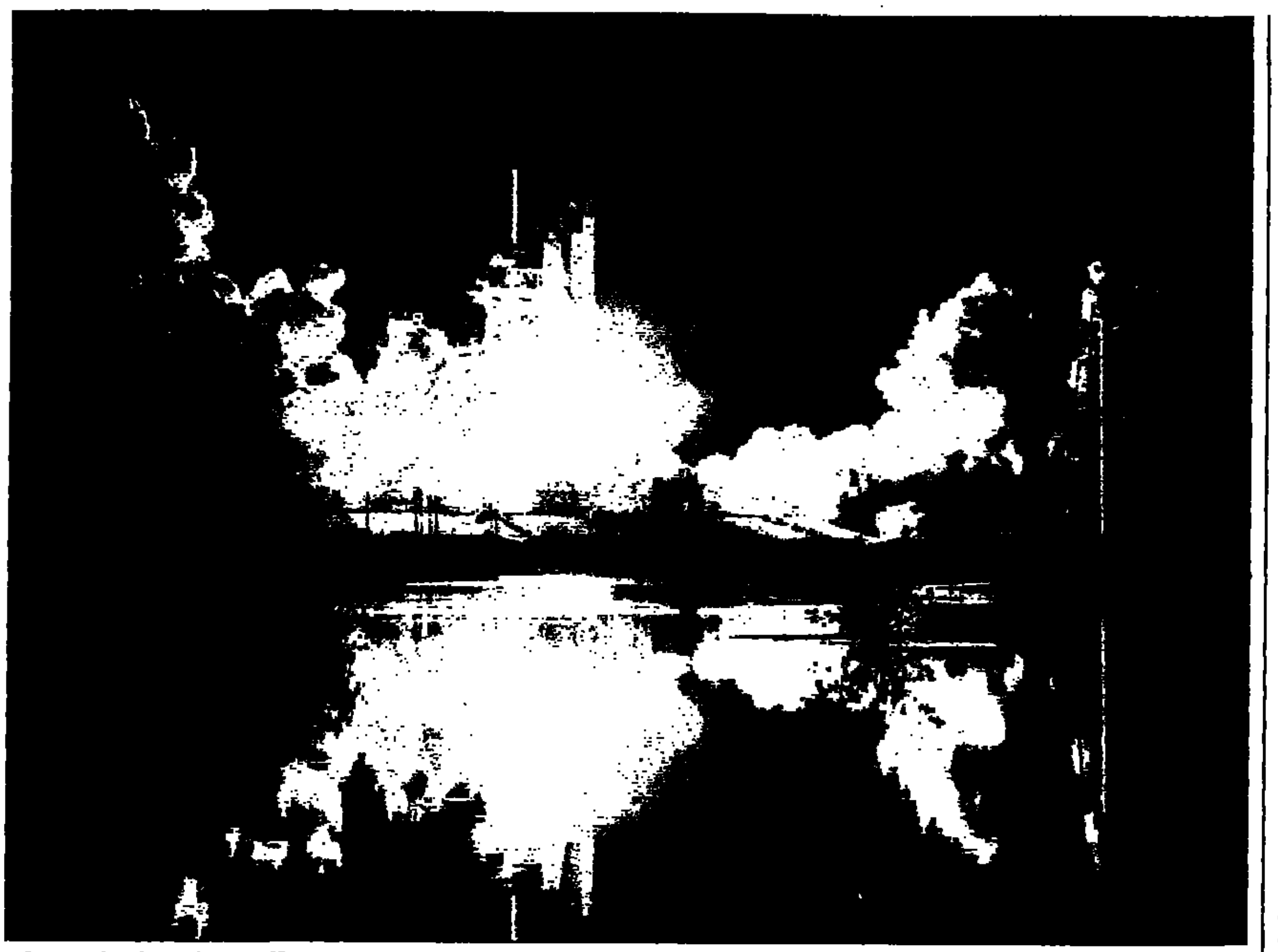
On top of these costs can be added the price of kennelling dogs during holidays, subscriptions to pet magazines such as *Dogue* and *Vanity Fur*, entry fees for social events such as next month's 1,500-dog "pooch picnic", plus the expense of proper training.

Bashkim Dibra, a self-styled "dog trainer to the stars", said yesterday that he had known New Yorkers who had spent more than $15,000 on educating a dog.

Mr Dibra, whose clients have included the hounds of the actresses Kim Basinger and Kathleen Turner, said: "Dog ownership is all about four-legged therapy. In a city like New York you need unconditional love, and that is what dogs provide."

Robin Hoik, of the American Kennel Club, said that, as with other household essentials, dog food and veterinarians cost more in New York. Animal behaviourists in central Manhattan charge as much as $500 an hour.

Atlantis begins voyage to Mir



Space shuttle *Atlantis* lifts off from Cape Canaveral to dock with the Russian station *Mir*. Soon after take-off yesterday, the crew said there was loss of pressure because of a leak in the hydraulics. The setback will not affect the docking, due to occur today, to let Shannon Lucid join *Mir*, where she is to stay for five months. If the leak shortens the ten-day trip, it will be a further embarrassment for Nasa after last month's mishap when a satellite was lost as its tether snapped. *(Reuter)*

First Lady replies to inquiry on sackings

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

HILLARY CLINTON yesterday released carefully worded written answers to 26 questions posed by congressmen investigating the dismissal in 1993 of the seven-member White House Travel Office.

In sworn testimony that contradicted a series of subpoenaed White House memorandums, she insisted that she had "no decision-making role" in the dismissals. She repeatedly claimed an inability to recall particular conversations during what she called a "busy and stressful time", and several times suggested that aides had misconstrued her remarks about the Travel Office. The White House released the answers just too late to be covered in Thursday's evening news.

Six of the seven employees were reinstated. The seventh was tried for fraud but acquitted. Evidence later emerged to suggest that an old Arkansas friend of the Clintons had pushed for the dismissals because he wanted the Travel Office business.

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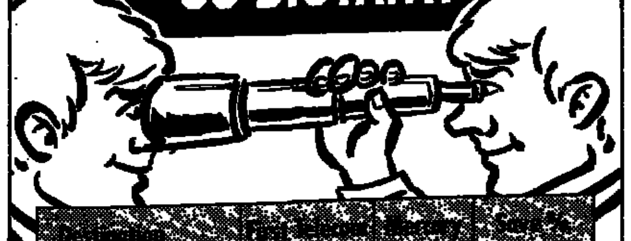

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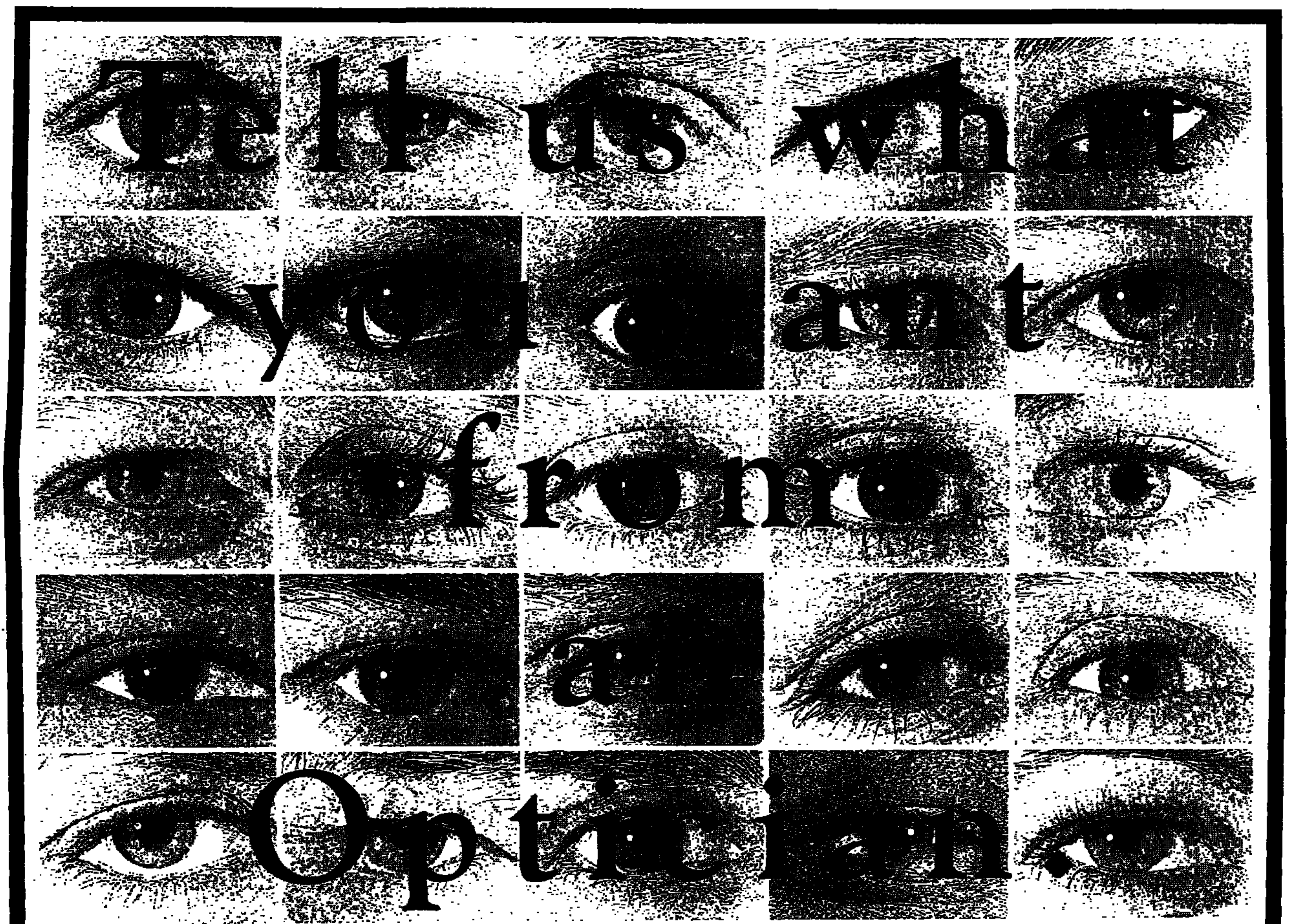
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Two of late President's confidants move on to bright new careers in acting and writing

Tapie, star of film and trial

PARIS FILE
by BEN
MACINTYRE

BERNARD TAPIE, the bankrupt former owner of Marseilles football team, is now starring in two very different productions: the first is a film by Claude Lelouch, the director, due for release this summer; the second is taking place in a French courtroom where the flamboyant former Cabinet minister stands accused of fraud.

M Tapie's trial began this week in Béthune and the quality of his court performance may decide whether he watches the premiere of his debut film as a free man or behind bars.

Like everything associated with the former singer, second-hand car salesman, politician, football boss, millionaire and now film actor, the charges against M Tapie are on a lavish, even garish scale.

Prosecutors say M Tapie, who is a member of the French and European parliaments, siphoned off up to Fr100 million (about £13 million) from a scale-manufacturing company he bought in 1983. The money allegedly was used to pay off his personal debts, fund an election campaign for an associate and recruit players for the Olympique Marseilles team.

A protégé of François Mitterrand and once a rising star of the Left, M Tapie already has an eight-month sentence hanging over him for match rigging.

He faces up to five more years in prison if convicted on the present charges, his financial empire is in ruins, the tax man is demanding more than Fr66 million (£8.5 million) in connection with his luxury yacht, and another case is pending over the accounts of the Marseilles team. Creditors have even stripped his mansion of its furniture.

A different man might buckle under that litany of disaster, but that is not M Tapie's way. "I have replaced my passion for football with a passion for film," M Tapie announced breezily as he strode into court this week. "I shall soon star in another movie."

His latest reincarnation, as the star of *Men, Women: Operating instructions*, in which he plays an over-stressed lawyer, has merely compounded the Tapie myth of invincibility and he was awarded the full star treatment by the French press when he completed filming, just days before his latest trial began.

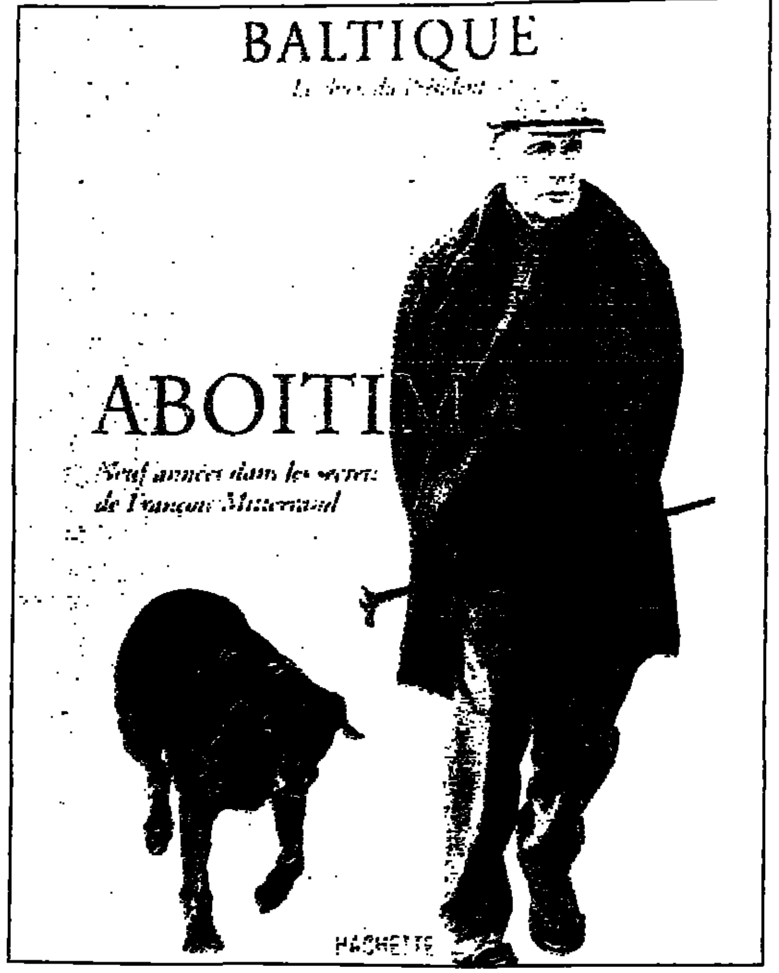
Lelouch, enthused over his unlikely leading man, insisting that "with regard to Tapie, there is one thing on which everyone agrees, his incomparable acting talents. He's a born actor."

Tribunal gives a oui for liberty

THE freedom to go to the lavatory is nowhere enshrined in the French constitution, but it is a right, according to a ruling by a French labour tribunal.

A bitter battle over "les pauses-pipi" erupted at Bigard, a Breton meat factory, after bosses insisted last July that the 300 employees were abusing lavatorial liberty and henceforth could use the company washrooms just three times a day, for five minutes each, at specified hours. Anyone disobeying would be fined Fr50 (£6.50). The workers promptly stopped work.

Last week the "Conseil des prud'hommes" ruled that workers could answer the call of nature whenever they wanted, having first told a supervisor. "Aux toilettes, citoyens!"


BALTIQUE
ABOITIM
Neuf années dans les secrets de François Mitterrand
HACHETTE

Baltique and her old friend adorn the cover of "her story"

Baltique bitches on about life in the Elysée

BALTIQUE, the black labrador owned by the late François Mitterrand, was seen by millions of television viewers as she faithfully accompanied the funeral cortège of her master in January.

Now, like the wife, the doctor and most other people associated with the former Socialist President, Baltique has rushed into print with a memoir of life *chez Mitterrand* from the canine perspective.

Unlike the whimsical memoirs of Millie the White House dog, whose work outsold that of her master, George Bush, mostly because it was more interesting, Baltique's style is "particularly biting", according to the book's publishers, Hachette-Carrère, not to say faintly bitchy.

In *Aboitim I*, a play on the French word for "bark", Baltique recalls that Mme Mitterrand was not overly fond of her, a claim that appears to be substantiated by the fact that since Mitterrand's death the dog has been relegated to a police station at an undisclosed location while the President's widow promotes her own book. Baltique has no plans to go walkies on a publicity tour, the publishers say.

Clearly written by an insider at the Elysée, *Aboitim I*, published on Thursday with an initial print run of 50,000 copies, covers Baltique's nine years as the President's dog, dwelling in particular depth on Mitterrand's relationship with Anne Pingeot, his mistress, and their illegitimate daughter Mazarine.

Steamy trailer ban puts 'Last Tango' director in a spin

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE film director Bernardo Bertolucci, whose *Last Tango in Paris* was banned in Italy 20 years ago, has again fallen foul of the censors, this time over a tale of adolescent seduction in Chiantishire.

State television announced yesterday that it was refusing to show advertisements for Bertolucci's latest film, *I Dance Alone*, starring the American actress Liv Tyler. Set in Tuscany, the film revolves around the seduction of the 18-year-old Tyler by an older man, played by Jeremy Irons, at an English-owned villa near Siena.

In the scene which gives the film its title, Irons dives naked into the pool and calls out to Tyler: "Haven't you ever made love?", to which she replies: "I dance alone."

The film will be released in Italy next week, and is to be shown at the next Cannes Film Festival. But a spokesman for RAI, the state-run television network, said the trailer was "too hot to handle", even for the late evening.

An infuriated Bertolucci said he would leave Italy altogether. He was "deeply bewildered and dismayed", not least because the Italian Board of Censors had praised the film on first viewing for "the delicacy with which it portrayed the young heroine's sexual initiation".

Bertolucci said the row revived painful memories of his "suffering and humiliation" over *Last Tango in Paris*, when he was given a two-month suspended prison sentence and deprived of the right to vote for five years. The refusal to advertise was absurd given that no one from RAI had seen the film.

Tyler: seduced in the film by Jeremy Irons

Italian television authorities are tightening up on standards after a row this week over a bizarre commercial for Volkswagen. The advert showed an elderly man running a pocket knife along the side of a smart red Golf.

Pierangelo Sardi, the head of the Italian Psychologists' Association, said it was beyond belief that an act of vandalism was used to sell cars when it was far more likely to encourage street crime.

The Pope has also stepped into the controversy over television standards, urging Catholics not to watch television at all if possible during Lent because too many images were "degrading to women" and otherwise encouraged debased values.

The Vatican said that the Pope would take the offensive during Holy Week by producing a 45-second "commercial" of his own depicting him reciting the rosary in Latin.

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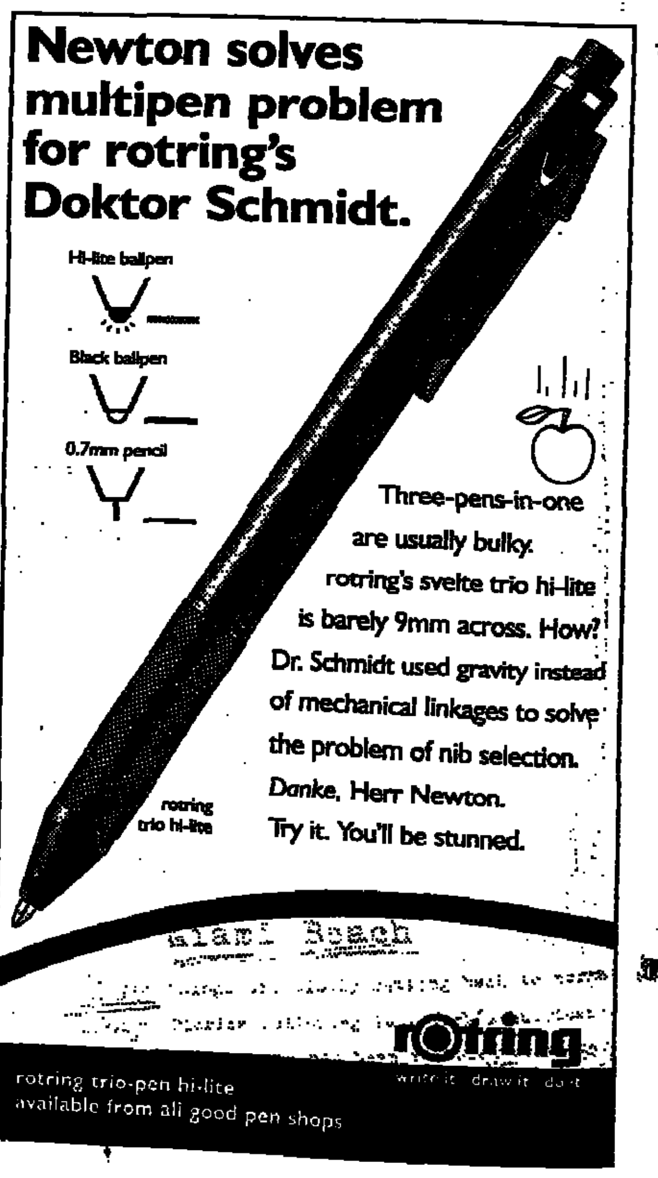

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■ OPINION

Could being chairman of the Royal Opera House be the ghastliest job in London?

■ THEATRE

Wonderful passion, pity about the diction: Isabelle Huppert makes her mark in Schiller's *Mary Stuart*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE

From Marianne Faithfull to *Arabella*, our critics choose the week's hot tickets: Weekend, page 2

■ RECORDS

Tippett's string quartets; Gibson in *Braveheart*: CDs and videos reviewed in Weekend, page 8

Now here's a test of public relations

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Not often do I feel sorry for anybody called Gummer. But I must put in a feelingful word for dear Peter Gummer, brother of our burger-munching Environment Secretary, John. This week, Peter was appointed chairman of the Royal Opera House, and has received a distinctly sniffy press for his pains. This is chiefly because, as Covent Garden's boss, he will be spending the very same lottery dosh (£55 million to be exact, plus the odd £20 million of "exes") that he awarded to the Royal Opera House development last year, when he headed the Arts Council's lottery panel.

Should we be worried by this? Indeed. There is clearly a deplorable shortage of Gummers to fill Britain's top jobs. More must be brought into operation as soon as possible.

But as for the tittle-tattle of troublemakers who claim Gummer's appointment to be another instance of an Establishment carve-up — well, what paranoid nonsense! If Gummer feels any conflict of interests at all, it will surely be with his other job. As boss of the big PR firm, Shandwick, he probably works on the assumption that good publicity is preferable to bad. At Covent Garden, of course, they operate on the opposite principle.

Gummer may also find that he has inherited the ghastliest job in London. Let us consider what he has to do if the ill-fated opera house development is finally to rise from the drawing-board. First he has to tie up a number of tiny but nevertheless irritating loose ends in the ROH's planning application, which seems to be progressing with all the speed of a gnat through treacle.

Then he must smarm up to the richest people in London — the Gettys, the Rothschilds, the Sainsburys, and of course the Morrisons — and sweet-talk them out of the £50 million of private funding that he needs to proceed with the development. Then he must find a way of sacking half the orchestra, the opera chorus and most of the stage hands in such a way that the rest don't walk out in sympathy — because he needs at least some staff to maintain a semblance of activity during closure.

Always assuming, of course, that he has found a temporary venue in which the skeleton opera company can perform. The ROH board has had about ten years to think about this one, so it clearly has a brilliant scheme all worked out ... it just doesn't want to tell anybody what the plan is yet.

Then comes the really exciting bit. Gummer must don his hard hat, put on his gruffest "don't mess with me, sonny" voice, and talk deadlines and penalty clauses with the gentlemen of the building trade. If he manages to get the ROH development up and running within five years of its estimated finishing date, he will be doing considerably better than the last two culture palaces built in London: the Barbican Centre (ten years late) and the British Library (your guess is as good as mine).

Meanwhile, of course, he will need to find tenants for all the retail outlets and office space that the ROH must rent out if it is to pay off the remaining £50 million cost of the scheme. Tricky? Well, let's put it this way: if offered the choice I would rather try selling British beef in Paris. But cometh the hour, cometh the Gummer. I am sure that the words "fall-guy" or "poisoned chalice" have never entered his mind.

In return, he receives no salary and won't even be able to run up an enormous champagne account in the Crush Bar, because the theatre will be closed. But there will be one deeply satisfying perk. As chairman, he can be thoroughly unpleasant to Mr Keith Cooper, the ROH's "director of corporate affairs", whose views on the shortcomings of his own colleagues are now so well known to BBC TV viewers. The joy of putting "beastly Keithy" through the mangle will surely compensate for all the other hassles of the job.

Britain's public libraries want to celebrate the millennium — and, incidentally, their own 150th anniversary — by putting an Internet terminal in every library by the year 2000. To this end the Library Association this week submitted a £45 million bid for lottery money, and a cheery PR lady from the LA has written to me asking if I would consider doing an article about "the role of librarians as information navigators for the new century". Gosh. Beam me up, Lord Jenkins, as we say in the Reading Room at the BM.

I have no objection to my local library wiring itself to the information superhighway. The people of Hendon have long been clamouring for an efficient means of exchanging Robin Williams fanclub e-mail with the citizens of Wisconsin. I just wonder where in the library they are going to put the terminal — what with the video checkout, the coffee bar, the man selling stamps, the council-tax arrears advice desk, the passport-photo booth, the bouncy castle, and of course the babysitting bureau. The only answer is to get rid of all those shelves of dusty old things with boring print inside. What did they used to be called? Hang on, I'll consult an information navigator.

Queenly quarrels with an acute accent

DONALD COOPER

Royal rumpus: Isabelle Huppert as Mary Stuart confronts Anna Massey as Elizabeth I in Schiller's *Mary Stuart*

Is the reason Schiller's great play is so seldom performed in the nation where it occurs that it subverts English preconceptions of the warring queens at its core? Certainly, Anna Massey's determination to do justice to the complexities of Elizabeth I cannot disguise the fact that the mighty monarch has been transformed into a blend of Herod and Pontius Pilate, only more scheming, vacillating, hypocritical and, of course, female. And certainly Schiller's romantic sympathy for a fettered body and unfettered spirit turns Mary Stuart into — but what?

If you read the play, you cannot doubt that Mary is far more of a heroine than, say, her counterpart in Robert Bolt's retelling of the story in *Vivat, Vivat Regina!*. But this is a conclusion hard to reach at the National, and for a most banal reason. A French actress, Isabelle Huppert, plays the part, and she simply cannot cope with Jeremy Sams's graceless translation. Mary Stuart, who came to Scotland from France in 1561 and lived in Britain for 25 years, speaks our language half as comprehensibly as the French ambassador.

That was scarcely Schiller's aim, though he did take liberties with the facts. As Stephen Spender pointed out, the play is a poetic myth that happens to involve British historical characters. The wonderful scene at its centre, in which Elizabeth and Mary meet and quarrel, never occurred. But it does not quite occur at the National either, for Huppert rises to a climax in which words such as "bastard" and "impostor" flash out of a rush of dropped vowels and blurred syllables, like lamps in an engulfing fog.

Importing Huppert was a bold act, and there are times when the risk comes off. Though her habit of pointing her finger or punching the air suggests weakness, not majesty, the ample gestures and full-blooded movements of French tradition contrast tellingly with the uptight body-language of Elizabeth's court. Even if you cannot always understand her, and her emotions sometimes seem external, Mary emerges as generous and outgoing, freer in her cage at Fotheringhay than Elizabeth in her palace: which is the very comparison Schiller wanted.

THEATRE

Mary Stuart
Lyttelton

The evening's big success is undoubtedly Massey's Virgin Queen, who spends it wanting and encouraging Mary's death, yet trying to offload responsibility for it on anything and anyone. But is she merely a Nero who wants to be thought an Augustus, as Schiller seems to suggest? Massey's answer is yes and no. She also exudes melancholy and yearning for love, plus a sardonic anger, very modern yet justified by the text, at a world that seems to demand she be woman, wife, man and tyrant all at once.

Massey begins by looking like the Elizabeth in the National Portrait Gallery, pale and flame-haired in her jewelled finery, and ends crouched on her throne, sour, wizened and alone. This is the final image of the play, which is just as well, for the execution preceding it is an anticlimax. We should feel that Mary's frank confession contrasts eloquently with Elizabeth's moral shilly-shallying, and we should be moved by her death. But how can a spectator let his feelings go when he is struggling to make sense of Esperanto?

The mood-music is a mistake and so, on the whole, is William Dudley's set, which shunts Claude landscapes and odd geometric patterns round the stage. There are effective supporting performances from Paul Jesson as an implacable Burleigh, Ben Miles as a *Sturm und Drang* hero who wants simultaneously to rape and rescue Mary, and (especially) Tim Pigott-Smith as a city-slicker Leicester, but Howard Davies's production lacks urgency. Where is the excitement of ideas, politics and raw human conflict? Nowhere much.

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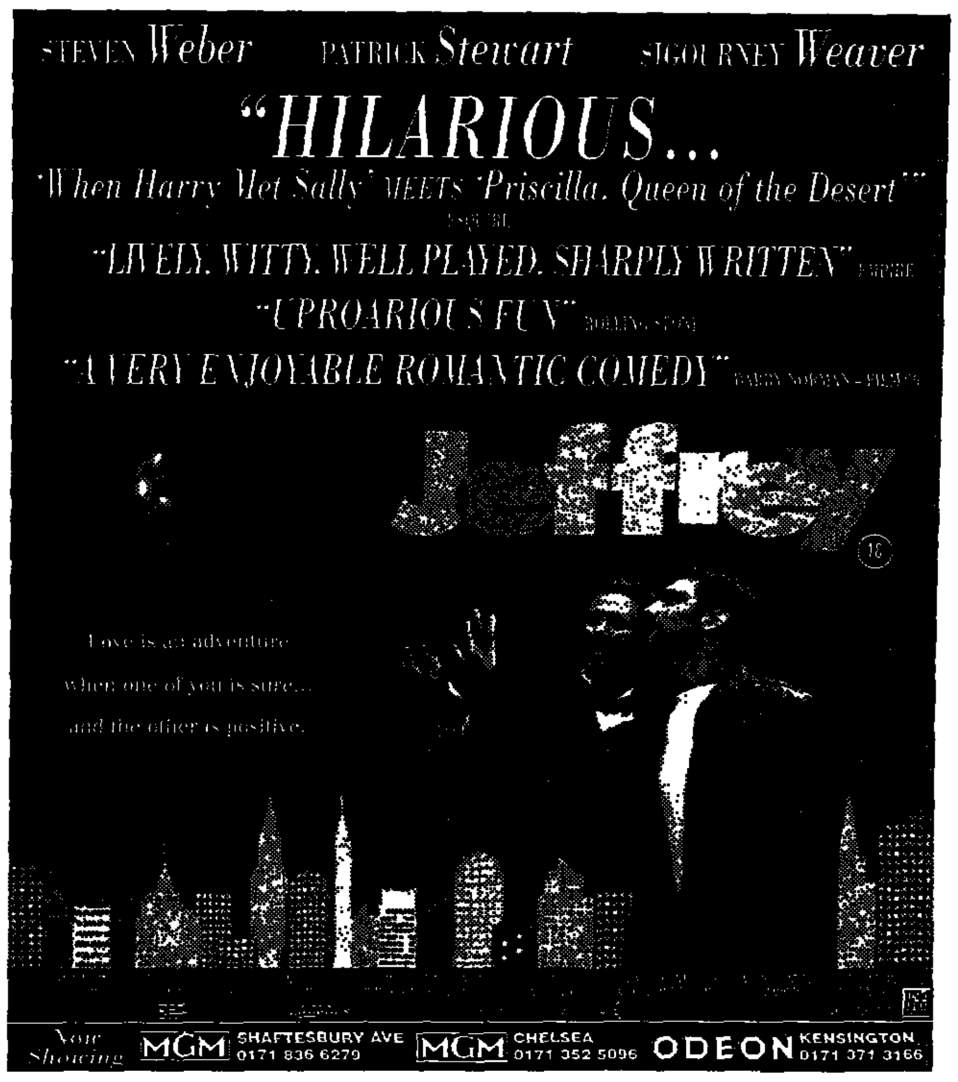

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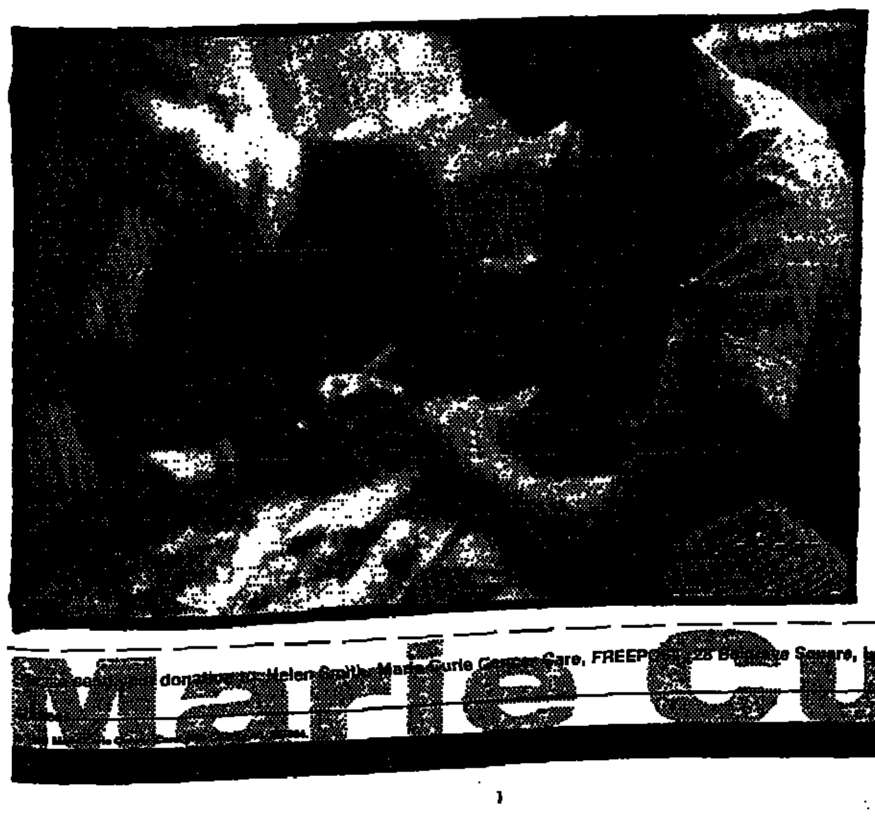

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صكتز من الاحل

■ VISUAL ART

A gem of a show: the British Museum celebrates the collecting genius of Sir William Hamilton

■ MUSIC

Choirmaster's farewell: Sir David Willcocks announces his retirement from the Bach Choir

THE TIMES ARTS

■ BASE NOTES

The Kirov ballerina Altynai Asylmuratova flies to Britain to pick up a dance award . . .

■ BASE NOTES

. . . while Lord Menuhin, who turns 80 next month, receives a special award

BASE NOTES

SOME of the most famous names in the world of music and dance were honoured this week at the *Evening Standard* Awards. The pianist **Alfred Brendel**, the soprano **Anja Silja** and the Kirov ballerina **Altynai Asylmuratova** all won awards for outstanding performances in Britain in 1995. The top prize for a dance production went to **Siobhan Davies**'s *Art of Touch*, and the chosen opera production was **Graham Vick**'s *King Arthur* at Covent Garden. For the second year in a row, the **London Symphony Orchestra** was named best music ensemble, and **Lord Menuhin** received a special award.

● *ASPIRING* actors are preparing to tread the boards at the 41st National Student Drama Festival , which takes place in Scarborough from Wednesday to April 3. The festival includes 17 productions as well as countless workshops and masterclasses — all under the patronage of playwright **Alan Ayckbourn**.

The organisers claim that their festival has helped more than 600 students, from Alan Yentob to Ben Elton, into the entertainment world. It pays tribute, once again, to **Buzz Goodbody**, the first female director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, who died in 1975 just after directing Ben Kingsley in *Hamlet*. She was plucked from obscurity at the 1966 National Student Festival: her talent was noticed by John Barton, who invited her to be his assistant at the RSC.

Apart from the annual award in her name, for the most outstanding young director, this year's festival will promote a new award in her memory: Queenswood, a leading independent girls' school in Hertfordshire, will launch a Buzz Goodbody Fellowship, to enable a talented young director to work at the school for a year. In return for free board, lodging and an honorarium, he or she will help to develop drama at the school, including producing a play.

All events are open to non-students. *Festival box office: 01723 365068 or, until tomorrow, 01782 749049.*

At the British Museum, **Isabel Carlisle** is captivated by Sir William Hamilton

The collector's collector

Sometimes, although rarely and unpredictably, an exhibition achieves a dynamism of its own that makes it not just good but great. That this mysterious chemistry should be present in the British Museum's current exhibition on Sir William Hamilton is surprising but palpably true.

I could analyse at length the factors that have brought this about: the infectious enthusiasm of the curators: their appetite for detective work; the high quality of the loans; the lack of inhibitions in mixing ideas with exhibits, science with art; the character of Sir William himself: and an installation that evokes the late 18th century in an entirely unpompous way, are all contributing factors. Much better just to go and experience for yourself this beguiling and stimulating gem of a show.

Sir William Hamilton took up the post of British envoy at the court of the Bourbon King Ferdinand IV of Naples in 1764 without any great ambitions for a diplomatic career. Lacking fortune or title, he concentrated instead on establishing a reputation for himself as a man of "virtu" through collecting art and antiquities, publishing his collections, entertaining the many Grand Tourists and artists passing through Naples and minutely recording the activities of Vesuvius for the Royal Society.

Vesuvius was more active in the second half of the 18th century than at any time since antiquity or afterwards and Sir William was near by for the three violent eruptions of 1767, 1779 and 1794. The evocative scenes that he commissioned from local artists convey the drama of the pall of smoke by day and the glowing orange of the night sky.

Vesuvius's fury unleashed: *The Great Eruption of 1767*, a view from the harbour of Naples, by Pietro Fabris

Despite the volcano, there can hardly have been a more pleasant place to live: the Bay of Naples was still one of the most beautiful places in Europe. A panoramic view by Giovanni Battista Lusieri, 2.7 metres long and painted from the balcony of Hamilton's Palazzo Sessa, shows it in all its limpid seductiveness, and in such detail that you can pick out Hamilton's seaside retreat, the Villa Emma, on the far side of the bay.

This was also when the first major finds were being brought up from the excavations of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Sir William promptly started his first collection of antiquities. In selling these to the British Museum in 1772 he revolutionised the character of that institution — until then a repository of the natural sciences — and put it on the path to becoming a showcase for art and antiquities.

Grand Tourist attraction: *Emma Lady Hamilton as Three Muses*, by Hugh Douglas Hamilton (c1789-90)

The recovery of Hamilton's scattered collections of Greek painted vases, gold jewellery, cameos, gemstones, Old Master and contemporary paintings, bronzes and sculpture is one of the triumphs of the show. The magnificent, colossal head of Hercules, chipped out of the lava at the foot of Vesuvius, is too good to go back into the museum's stores. So is the reconstructed 5th-century BC Greek tomb from Trebbia, with a bronze cheese-grater among the grave goods and small vases hanging on the back wall. Famously unrecoverable is the part of Sir William's second vase collection, which went down in *HMS Colossus* in a storm off the Isles of Scilly.

To be remembered as a victim of this disaster and the long-suffering cuckold of the *menage à trois* with Nelson and his wife, Emma, has been Hamilton's fate until today.

Emma was effectively dumped on Hamilton by his nephew Charles Greville, whose mistress she had been. In tackling the delicate task of establishing a role for her in Neapolitan society, Hamilton had the idea that Emma should pose as classical statues — she had already posed for Romney in London. Her metamorphosis from one character into another, with three cashmere shawls for props, became one of the tourist sights of Naples. Among the drawings and paintings of her, including those by Romney and Reynolds, the most enchanting is by Elisabeth Vigee-Le Brun, who sketched her upturned face onto one of the doors at the Villa Emma with a stick of charcoal taken from the fire.

To resurrect Sir William as a benefactor to the nation, a connoisseur and man of taste who aimed to raise standards of design and art in Britain is one of the aims of this exhibition. Most successfully of all, it evokes the enormous excitement of living at the end of the 18th century, when so many branches of knowledge were at their very beginnings and the arts were enthusiastically embracing the discoveries of classical Greece and Rome.

● Vases and Volcanoes: Sir William Hamilton and his collection, *sponsored by Pirelli, is at the British Museum until July 14*

A chorus of approval

One of Britain's greatest choral conductors, Sir David Willcocks, is to retire. **Katharine Road** reports

I hope nobody thinks they have joined the Bach Choir to sing Bach, remarked the choir's former director, Reginald Jacques, many years ago. Sir David Willcocks, who took over Jacques's post in 1960 and announces his retirement tomorrow, could not have put it better. For the legacy he leaves the Bach Choir is precisely that vast diversity of repertoire — plus the high standards demanded by the man who was simultaneously turning the choir of King's College, Cambridge, into one of the world's most formidable musical institutions.

The diversity is probably just as well. Willcocks can remember the King of Norway catching up on two hours' sleep in a performance of Bach's B Minor Mass during a tour at the beginning of his tenure with the Bach Choir. But the fact that the singers were in Norway at all, and performing to such a distinguished audience, reflects the ambition that Willcocks had for the choir. Previously it had never ventured outside London: indeed, it gave only seven concerts a year. Now they number 20, and the choir has undertaken 17 foreign tours and produced a formidable collection of recordings.

The progress of the Bach Choir mirrors what Willcocks believes to be a general improvement of standards in the choral field. "Recordings have made a great deal of difference," he says. "People have come to expect as good a sound in a concert as they hear on a CD. But another factor is the blossoming of so many specialist groups in the past 20 years — it means that new standards are set and as a large, amateur choir we have to fight to compete with smaller, specialist ones."

But however many specialist groups there are, the Bach Choir has managed to achieve an enviable reputation of being committed to the performance of new works without being pigeonholed for focusing exclusively on contemporary music. The most recent venture has been to work closely with the Polish composer Penderecki.

If the Bach Choir is amateur in status, Willcocks has erased any tendency for it to be "amateurish" in approach. "I did not set out to change things, but in fact they have," Willcocks says. When he arrived the Bach Choir needed to import professional tenors to "stiffen" its ranks. That would not be necessary today.

Willcocks is the longest serving musical director the choir has had. "I was going to leave when I was 60," he says, "and then at 65, and then when I reached 70. Now I am 76. I am always looking forward to the next event, never back at the last."

● *Sir David Willcocks conducts Bach's* St Matthew Passion *in the Festival Hall (0171-960 4242) tomorrow at 11am*

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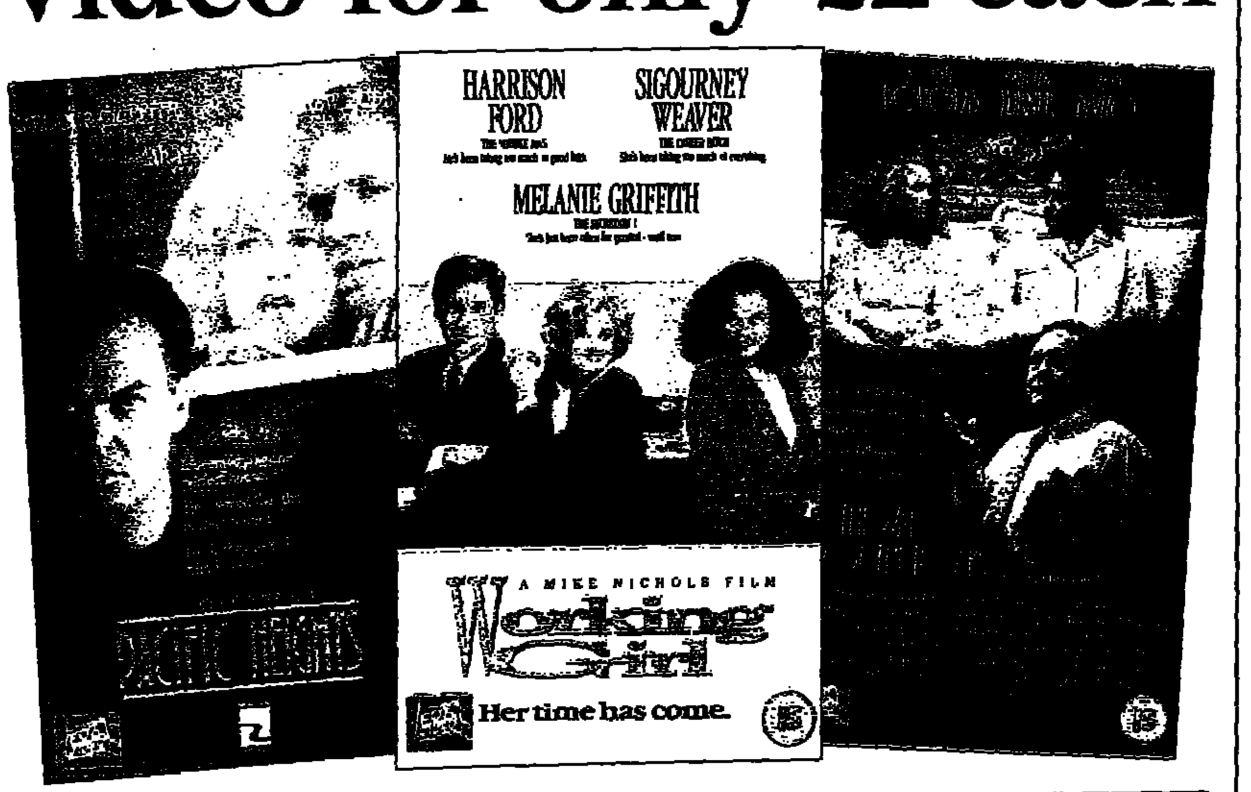

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The making of an island nation

Jonathan Mirsky on Taiwan's response to China's challenge

Some 620 foreign journalists will watch 14 million voters cast their ballots for Taiwan's President today. Few of these foreign reporters would have been here, even though it is Taiwan's first direct (and hence democratic) presidential election, had it not been for a sinister presence just across the horizon. Not far away, the People's Republic of China exercises a detachment of the largest army in the world, occasionally hurling missiles into the Taiwan Strait, ordering soldiers to storm deserted beaches under screaming jet cover and disturbing the sleep of villagers along the Fukien coast as it explodes tonnes of live ammunition.

Also not far off, but staying out of harm's way, cruise two US naval battle groups, part of what William Perry, Secretary of Defence, calls "the best damn navy in the world", exhibiting the greatest show of American force in the Western Pacific since the Vietnam War.

This is big news in a small place. What is emerging very fast here is a new democracy and a *de facto* nation, challenging those who define "Asian values" and shaking the Chinese Communist Party to its crumbling roots. China, its authoritarian allies such as Singapore, Burma and Indonesia, and some of its rich friends in Hong Kong, insist that what attracts loyalty to governments in this part of the world is order, economic stability and the chance for a better material life. Western-style democracy results only in chaos.

The 21 million people on Taiwan are culturally Chinese but they have relished this Western-style election. Any taxi driver will provide a seminar on the candidates, the issues and the Taiwan-China relationship. There is no slavish emperor-worship of President Lee Teng-hui, leader of the late Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang nationalists (KMT) and today's certain winner. On the radio some callers refer to him as "an enemy of the people". For anyone who recalls Tiananmen in 1989, it was hard this week to comprehend the thousands of demonstrators in downtown Taipei shouting "Down with Lee" and "Down with the Kuomintang". It was a novelty that policemen, instead of breaking heads and shooting people when they fell, directed cars through the crowds.

Presidential rivals here stop at nothing in their mutual abuse; only sexual innuendo seems absent. One rival party has regularly accused Mr Lee of being an ex-Communist. Although the Communist Party has been illegal since 1945, this is regarded as mere election knockabout even by those who think it is true.

This may be plucky little Taiwan, standing up to the giant across the Strait. But despite the election ballyhoo, the party balloons, banners and baseball caps, Taiwan is not the Athens of East Asia. Lifelong Kuomintang members shake their heads at the country's underlying corruption, its vote-buying, its domination of the media and its links to the "Black Societies", Taiwan's mafia, many members of which are KMT officials. Nor are the other parties free of this taint. When Taiwan's equivalent of the Mafia Don of Dons was shot dead recently, every political party sent a representative and a wreath to his funeral.

Corruption is a major campaign issue. Peking's missiles have guaranteed Mr Lee millions of votes today from people who would have preferred any other candidate but want an experienced hand at the helm during this crisis.

All week, during the proud reminders to foreigners that this is the first democratic election of a Chinese President for 5,000 years, the Tiananmen aura has hovered near. The People's Liberation Army is only just offstage. But Peking has been taken by surprise by an unusually decisive President Clinton and, since the arrival nearby of the aircraft carriers *Independence* and *Nimitz*, the prospect of the People's Liberation Army seizing even a Taiwan-controlled atoll has all but vanished.

This election has resulted in an international setback for Peking. Liu Binyan, a 71-year-old exiled investigative reporter whom China accuses of being the senior "Black Hand" behind the Tiananmen protests, is visiting Taiwan. Because of China's pressure, he says, Peking "has lost the hearts" of even those here who wanted reunification eventually. Moreover, they have made China an international outcast again, "as it was after Tiananmen".

> Peking's missiles guarantee Mr Lee millions of votes

Chinese officials have told their American counterparts frequently in recent weeks that for Peking, there are overriding issues. National unity is a traditional obsession of Chinese rulers. During the past 2,500 years the country has often been fragmented. Local riots have sparked provincial uprisings which, on occasion, have toppled dynasties. Minority peoples such as the Tibetan Buddhists and Sinkiang Muslims have struggled to wrench free.

What is unusual about Taiwan is that all presidential candidates here, supported by most citizens, assert that the island is, in practice, independent. "A rebellious province with an excellent army surrounded by a wide body of water," remarks Su Shaozhi, another exiled ex-party veteran in Taipei for the elections.

Unlike traditional rebel chieftains and the early 20th-century contenders for power, who included Mao's Communists, no one here wants to take power in Peking. The Kuomintang maintains a fiction of legal authority over China, Mongolia and Tibet, but in 1991 it renounced the use of force to exercise that authority. That is Peking's nightmare: a prosperous Chinese province truly on its own. And with an elected Government. And during an interregnum in Peking, where the aged leader is dying and his lieutenants jockey for what remains of Communist power.

Oliver Walston argues that neither Government nor farmers could have averted the BSE crisis

Farewell to the roast beef of old England

Hindsight is an occupational disease of journalists which in its mildest form is merely irritating. However, when mixed in equal quantities with ignorance, it can produce lethal results. The firestorm of BSE hysteria is an example. As a result, I now find myself feeling profound sympathy for two groups about whom I have traditionally been less than enthusiastic: the present Government and my fellow farmers. It has also caused me to thank God that I am not a beef producer.

Today, some ten years after BSE was first identified, the Government stands accused of incompetence and complacency for not acting sooner and more decisively. Yet it is clear that if the Government had said ten years ago what it is saying today, it would have been rightly accused of irresponsible scaremongering. The scientific evidence which was published this week was simply not available when the disease first appeared in 1986.

In the intervening period, the Government followed the advice of its scientific advisers, which was evaluated in the light of current knowledge. Only when this knowledge altered did it take the sensible step of publicising the fact and altering its policy. For once, I find it difficult to disagree with the actions of a Conservative Government.

My fellow farmers, whom I have often criticised for undue dependence on subsidies, are even less to blame. The infected bone meal from sheep which appears to have caused the outbreak of BSE was, it should be remembered, put in the rations not by greedy or slipshod farmers but by compounders looking for cheap ingredients. It is also worth remembering that this practice was both perfectly legal and widespread throughout Europe. If the first priority of consumers is cheap food, it may not be entirely coincidental that the same objective is adopted all the way up the food chain.

The irony — and the worry — today is that it is now too late for any new measures to be taken. The regulations restricting the use of infected tissue and those governing the slaughter of infected animals have all been in operation for the past seven years. Thus, if any infected beef has been consumed, it was certainly consumed before 1988. Meanwhile, all we can do is to wait and wonder whether an epidemic will erupt. I find myself trying to remember how many Cornish pasties I ate in 1986. It is not a pleasant feeling.

Then again, neither is it a pleasant feeling for a beef producer to realise that his 600kg steer, which was worth £750 last week, is worth £550 this week and could be worth much less next week. This fall in price has more than wiped out any profit he would have made. Cattle men are left feeling scared and helpless.

There is no immediate solution to this crisis. To slaughter the entire national herd would be impracticable. All dairy products and all meat would have to be imported — and there are simply not sufficient quantities available to meet this demand. The knock-on effect would be equally catastrophic as abattoirs, tanneries and producers manufacturing foods as varied as chocolate and jelly found their supplies drying up.

Of course there will be a few beneficiaries on the farms of Britain. Organic beef producers will enjoy increased sales, but this will remain a niche market restricted to those who can afford the very high premium which this produce fetches. Sheep producers have already seen a sharp increase in their prices: a fat lamb which sold for £55 last week fetched £70 this week. The pork and poultry trade will also help to fill the gap left by collapsing beef sales.

The tragedy facing both farmers and the Government is that the crisis has spiralled out of control. The lack of confidence in beef is so profound that no amount of reassuring ministerial pronouncements can possibly repair the damage. The lady in the supermarket queue may not be interested in the scientific minutiae of BSE, but she knows it is sensible to avoid beef. On the international scene, the position is similar: even if the EU veterinary committee gives British beef its approval, France, Germany and the other member states are unlikely to lift their bans.

Faced with the uncomfortable realisation that the media will continue to pour petrol on the flames, the Government will, I suppose, retreat into a series of public relations actions intended to reassure a frightened public. The most likely of these would be to slaughter every animal in any herd which has ever had BSE. This would, of course, have no effect on the disease itself but might show a dynamic and active Government. Meanwhile, farmers in the uplands of Britain will be going bankrupt and nobody will care.

The author is a Cambridgeshire farmer, a writer and a member of the Agricultural Reform Group.

Time to make divorce humane

Simon Jenkins

The Family Law Bill is no threat to marriage. It should pass

On Monday Members of Parliament will be voting on the best measure to emerge from the latter years of the Major administration. It is Lord Mackay of Clashfern's Family Law Bill. It proposes to make divorce in Britain more difficult.

Despite the claims of a mendacious and bizarre campaign against the Bill, it will do just that. Under the new law, the overwhelming majority of divorces would take longer than now, 75 per cent of them twice as long. Unlike now, divorce would become impossible without a prior financial settlement. Unlike now, the present and probable future conduct of a parent will specifically determine access to children. Unlike now, nobody could have a quick divorce merely by supplying a partner with "grounds" such as adultery, violence or unreasonable behaviour. That is what I call harder divorce — but it is also more humane.

The campaign to retain Britain's present high-speed divorce system — average length seven months — is confused. It has been led with panache by the Editor of the *Daily Mail*, Paul Dacre, to the growing embarrassment of his staff, and has captured the moral interventionist wing of the Conservative Party. The campaign is eager to retain at its core the concept of "fault". Marriage is not just a bond of love or a pledge for eternity, say the campaigners, but a legal contract. If one party breaks it against the wishes of the other, he or she should suffer. Marital failure should imply guilt, not something as anodyne as "irretrievable breakdown". As symbol of this guilt, divorce should be kept expensive, litigious and acrimonious. To hell with the happiness of those involved.

I find this position immoral. Lord Mackay's Bill does not introduce "no fault" divorce. All it does is end the use, and abuse, of the concept of fault as a means to a quickie divorce. Fault remains in British divorce law: in section 25 of the Matrimonial Causes Act on the division of property and in schedule 8 of the new Bill on custody of children. By denying divorce in the absence of a settlement, the Bill would increase, not diminish, the innocent party's leverage. At present that party's only redress is to force delay or expensively contest the divorce, a route chosen in only 7 per cent of cases. Full and final settlement before divorce is a great advance on the present quickie system, whose "loose ends" poison future marriages and damage children.

The Family Law Bill has brought out an unattractive streak in the Conservative Party, that of punitive moral interventionism. Ralph Harris, in an article on this page a week ago, accused the Lord Chancellor of such grave errors as enjoying the support of progressives and of wanting divorce "on demand". The trumpet on such a moral issue must never "give forth an uncertain sound", said Lord Harris, though no sound is more uncertain than the present quickie divorce. This fierce opponent of state intervention in his right to smoke suddenly demands intervention in other people's domestic misery. "Is it not defeatist," he cries, "to conclude that law is powerless to do much about it?" I am sure Lenin would have said the same.

Laws that prescribe moral attitudes usually make asses of themselves. The present divorce law is inhumane. The advocates of "fault" argue that, by forcing the warring parties publicly to blame each other if they wish for a quick divorce, they are deterring divorce and protecting marriage. This has to be the most specious defence of the status quo in all of public policy. The bulk of the rise in divorce since 1969 has actually been in fault-based cases. The concept of fault does not deter divorce: 75 per cent of couples make use of this procedure despite the cost, misery and hurt to children. It is a bad argument that has made bad law.

If the opponents of the Mackay Bill want to stop divorce they should come clean and stop it. If they believe that people should be made to stick to their pledges, especially where children are involved, they should make them. But they are unwilling to go that far. So they defend a law that merely makes divorce messy, painful and expensive.

In the vehemence of this defence, these people have no concern for the impact of the present process, not only on the happiness of the parties themselves but on their children. Some peers even suggested that children should be able to prolong a divorce procedure, or be consulted on its terms. Of course children want marriages to stay together. Of course those who bring children into a loveless marriage stand condemned in the eyes of most humanitarians. But what most children want is certainty as to their future. They do not want delay.

This is affirmed by every responsible children's agency in opposing any delay longer than a year, by the Children's Society, the NSPCC, Barnardo's, the National Children's Home. They all point out that what children most dread at present is the feature of "fault" most beloved of those arguing for the status quo: the spectacle of each parent having to berate the other in a public court for his or her adultery or misbehaviour. To seek to corral children into being parties to this parental humiliation is callous beyond belief.

We would all like to see less divorce. Nobody has been able to show how delaying divorce beyond a year will promote marriage, as suggested in Lady Young's failed Lords amendment. There is no evidence that delay promotes reconciliation. For most couples, it merely prolongs uncertainty and postpones the rebuilding of their lives apart. If the objectors were serious about less divorce they might turn their attention to making couples think longer before entering unwise marriages. The way to curb divorce-on-demand is to curb marriage-on-demand. The Church of England, so careless of divorcees, might institute a one-year "cooling-off period" between banns and wedding day. Thousands of divorces might be prevented.

The reason for Lord Mackay extending the present average period from seven months to a minimum of a year is to ensure that both the parties are sure in their decision and that they have reached a full and final settlement. If they cannot agree, there is still recourse from the mediator to the law. If the process to settlement takes two or even five years, so be it — a powerful incentive on the "guilty" party to settle. The inclusion of pension-splitting in a future Bill will make that settlement even more complex. But what matters is settlement, not the length of the delay.

Family law is law, with an obligation to fairness and efficiency. It is not religious doctrine. It is not Lord Harris's moral trumpet or what Tessa Keswick calls in *The Daily Telegraph* "the pulsating heart of Conservative tradition". If that heart is about anything, it should be about humane legislation that respects personal freedom and responsibility from state interference. Tories should not try to nationalise the family.

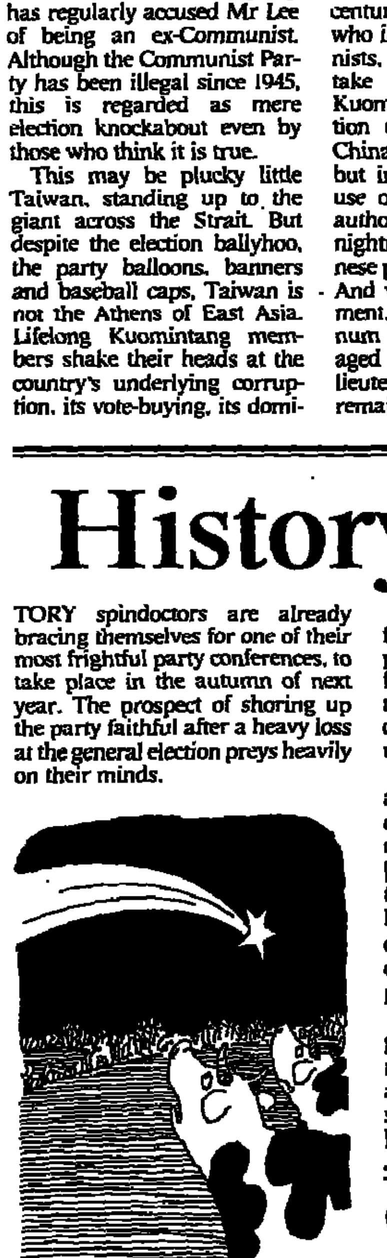
Divorce law poses no threat to marriage. Marriage is hard enough without denying those who make mistakes the hope of redemption in a new life. Marital breakdown is no crime. Divorce is by definition about a relationship between consenting adults that, for whatever reason, has not worked. Governments cannot make it work. The thesis that this Bill will "undermine marriage" — or some other Bill might uphold it — implies a superiority of the State over personal emotions that, in its limiting case, is communist. I believe that this sort of Toryism, illiberal, punitive and authoritarian, makes the party deeply unattractive to many people.

I see it as a virtue in a law that it should seek reconciliation between parties, minimise cost and protect children. For the opposite — blame, delay, misery and expense — to be proclaimed as virtues in defence of moral trumpets is squalid. Divorce law is not a trumpet. It is the mechanism by which contracts can be dissolved in the interests of the parties involved, not the State. That is patently the aim of Lord Mackay's Bill. It should pass.

THE TIMES DIARY

History man

TORY spindoctors are already bracing themselves for one of their most frightful party conferences, to take place in the autumn of next year. The prospect of shoring up the party faithful after a heavy loss at the general election preys heavily on their minds.



"I wonder what that means?"

They should prepare themselves for worse still. Alan Clark, the preening diarist, is to present a four-part documentary series on the party for the BBC during the course of the conference. It is unlikely to be overly sympathetic.

"It's a completely objective look at what the party did in the 20th century, going from the setting up of the 1922 Committee until the 1997 [sic] election," he says. "Conservatives are not actually particularly bothered by their history. That is one of their problems — they are only concerned with the day-to-day problems of party management."

Clark insists that the programme, which will be accompanied by a book, will be a serious analysis. "No, it will not be salacious," he says. "It's a ridiculous adjective to use."

Curry's off

AFTER four years of grey nights and freezing winds, the owner of the only curry house in the Orkney Islands is closing up and returning to the mainland. Having arrived in the hope of tapping a rich vein of tourist trade, Moina Miah, the owner of the Mumutaz restaurant, is now a sorry sahib. He is terribly lonely and itching to hear his native Bengali once more.

It all started so well. Miah, originally from Silhet in Bangladesh, and his six children came to Orkney from Nairn. "We had thousands of tourists coming to look at some old rocks," he said miserably, "and they would all come and eat some of my special Lemony Chicken."

The Bangladeshi staff who came over with Miah, however, proved his downfall.

"It was terrible," said Miah, with a Bengali love-song playing in the background. "The cooks and waiters would get lonely, and each night I would go to the restaurant and find another one had gone. Now I am the lonely one."

Lover's tiff

THE FOREIGN Office is appalled by Kenneth Clarke's less than dignified encounter this week in South Africa with an individual who styles himself "Mr Lover Man" and dresses as a condom. Clarke lumbered up blokishly to the rubber-clad icon who was promoting Aids awareness, shook his hand and posed pot-bellied for the cameras.

"We would never have let our man get into a position where he had to shake hands with a condom," harrumphed one of Malcolm Rifkind's minders.

Blame for the episode is being placed on Jill Rutter, the press officer accompanying him on the trip. Perhaps this is an unjust accusation, for Clarke is quite capable of making howlers on his own. Yesterday in Zimbabwe, he referred repeatedly to Rhodesia.

South Africa's Mr Lover Man meets Kenneth Clarke

● *Sir Andrew Aguecheek in* Twelfth Night, *currently playing at the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, is getting a new laugh. It comes in Act One Scene Three when he says the line: "Methinks sometimes I have no more wit than a Christian or an ordinary man has: but I am a great eater of beef, and I believe that does harm to my wit."*

No Honor

MYSTERY surrounds the Venus de la Mode modelling prize awarded last week in Paris to Honor Fraser, sister of Lord Lovat. For Miss Fraser, who was voted the model of the season prize previously won by both Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell, awards ceremonies hold about as much appeal as a ten-inch heel.

So, after a hard week on the French catwalks, she decided to pass on the air-kissing and headed instead for a Humphrey Bogart film with her boyfriend, an undergraduate at the LSE.

Back at the awards, however, when the presenter announced the award of the prize to "Mademoiselle Honor Fraser" a man approached the stage, picked up the gewgaw gaw and thanked the audience on her behalf. The fashion types looked perplexed, but flapped their programmes in approval all the same. One problem: who was this man? No one seemed to know, least of all Honor and her boyfriend. The search for him and the missing award continues.

Honor Fraser: missing award

P·H·S

هكذا من الاصل

POOR JOHN BULL

It will never be glad, confident carving again

Beef has, until now, enjoyed a privileged place on the Englishman's table. But the terrible prospect of cattle herds facing slaughter and the profoundly unsettling possibility of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease incubating, unknown, in thousands across the country has put an end to that. The meat intertwined with the island story has now become another national institution in which the nation has no confidence.

From the 18th-century beef has been more than a staple foodstuff: it has been central to Britain's self-definition. The Roast Beef of Old England was no bogus Merrie England marketing invention like the egregious ploughman's lunch, but an authentic coinage of Henry Fielding's which sprang from the ubiquity and symbolic importance of the meat for the Georgians. Beef became a potent metaphor in literature, cartoons and political discourse for the virtues of the newly-unified British state. A nation of beefeaters was sturdy, handy with a knife or sword, prosperous and free.

The ascendancy of beef in the 18thcentury sprang from the economic success and agricultural improvements which placed Britain on the trajectory to pre-eminence. In the late Middle Ages and Tudor times what prosperity there was had been built on wood and wool. With Protestantism, and capitalism, Britain grew wealthier than its *ancien régime* adversaries across the Channel. Where the continentals relied on oxen as draught animals and swine for their meat, the British could afford to eat the more expensively cultivated flesh of the cow. The temperate climate which encouraged political moderation also favoured good grazing. The one part of the British Isles where beef-eating did not take root was impoverished Ireland, where the few cattle were working animals and it was held that "the common sort" would never kill a cow.

The British taste for beef soon became integral to foreign perceptions. In 1748 the Swedish visitor Pehr Kalm remarked that "the art of cooking as practised by most Englishmen does not extend beyond roast beef and plum pudding". More importantly, perhaps, beef became the symbol of the advantages Britons enjoyed which were denied the lesser breeds across the water. Gillray and Hogarth, two of the artists most vividly engaged with the Georgian social scene, deployed beef as a metaphor for liberty. In 1792 Gillray contrasted the citizens of Revolutionary France reduced to eating scallions and in fear of their freedom with the prosperous and independent Briton plump and free to enjoy best beef.

The importance of beef to the British character was also reflected in the efforts made by rival ideologies to appropriate its imagery. Whoever stood for beef stood for Britain. The Tories and the country faction in Georgian politics portrayed themselves as pure-bred yeomen with plain beef on their oak tables in contrast to Whig grandees such as Walpole and Newcastle whose court elite preferred highly sauced, and highly suspect, foreign delicacies. And, while other nations might equate prosperity with a chicken in the pot, redistributive radicals in Britain, from Cobbett to G .K . Chesterton sought to spread wealth by seeing men secure an acre, and a cow. Even the martial skills which underpinned imperial expansion were attributed to beef: 18th-century sailors ate 208lb of it per annum, six times the per capita consumption last year, and the army relied on bully beef as much as the Gatling gun when it bore the white man's burden.

After this week any thought of preserving beef as symbol of virility and liberty looks, at best, forlorn. Other nations have had their metaphorical mascots in nature threatened. America has seen the bison leave the prairies, giant redwoods felled and the bald eagle face extinction. The Russians have seen the sturgeon, whose eggs proclaimed imperial greatness as assuredly as M Fabergé's, succumb to pollution. The French saw the vines which furnished their finest product blighted forever by phylloxera, and the Irish search for self-sufficiency has always been more urgently sought and more poignantly elusive since the Potato Famine. But none of these nations has suffered such a blow, so precipitately, to its esteem as Britain this week. Tomorrow's Sunday lunch will be a melancholy mealtime as Britons recognise it will never be glad, confident, carving again.

SUPERIOR WOMEN

But who is the most powerful of them all?

Sometimes it takes a survey to discover a truth. When our Magazine first embarked upon the exercise of identifying the 100 most powerful women in the world, we assumed that competition for places would be fierce. After all, women have made great strides in the past few decades. Surely the problem would be to choose between competing candidates, not to scour the world for more?

Not so: we found it hard to fill the places with 100 truly powerful women. Of the 292 countries in the world, only six have female prime ministers and two have women as heads of state or government. At the top of business and finance, women are even rarer. Science is almost exclusively led by men. And while there are many successful female performers in the arts and the media, the big corporations are still run by men.

Inclusion in the list was determined by points for political power, financial power and personal influence. Jostling for today's top place were Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, and Hillary Clinton. Had the question been asked two years ago, Mrs Clinton would probably have won. She was then part of what was almost a joint presidency, sharing the job of the world's most powerful man. Now she has lost public power; her strategic influence over the coming election is wholly private.

Miss Bhutto, on the other hand, runs a country with a population of 130 million and a nuclear bomb. Her power may be constrained by the military on one side and fundamentalists on the other, but we considered that she exerted more influence on more people's lives than any other woman in the world. Asia has the highest percentage of women in powerful political positions — partly because politics there is dynastic, and many of these women are wives or daughters of assassinated leaders.

In other parts of the world — notably the Middle East, Africa, Russia, Latin America and, suprisingly perhaps, Australasia — there still seems to be a cultural bar to female achievement. Scarcely any powerful women could be found in these regions. Even in countries that pay lip service to the advancement of women, there are few of them in the really important jobs. Britain, for instance, has no women chairmen or chief executives of top companies; no women heads of broadcasting organisations; no female heads of large arts companies; and only two women out of 22 in the Cabinet.

So it is a sign of the lack of rivals, as well as of her continuing world influence, that Baroness Thatcher came joint third on the list, despite having been out of politics for half a decade. That she found herself in a dead heat with the Queen was unintentional, but perhaps apt given the slightly competitive nature of their relationship. The record of Britain under Margaret Thatcher — and indeed Pakistan under Miss Bhutto — is testimony to the fact that women in power can be as able and as strong as men. Yet the path to those positions is still strewn with obstacles, both overt discrimination and unthinking assumptions that disqualify women from top jobs. Women are gradually moving up the ladder of success. If we were to conduct this survey again in ten years' time, we would hope not to find the newer generation of female achievers still excluded from those rungs at the top.

SOUKS ON WHEELS

Why car-boot sales bring out the bazaar in us

East and West, in spite of their much-touted never-the-twainness, meet every Sunday in Britain at the country's car-boot sales. As the week ends, and the Great British Public throngs to these souks on wheels, the land resounds to the chirp of car-boot commerce. "Old records rare and round, yours for just a pound." "Books fat and dense, buy 'em for fifty pence." "Cheese, cheese, eat my cheese please." Furniture, children's clothes, crockery, golf clubs, goldfish, fountain pens, pots and pans, televisions: nothing is too esoteric, nor too unwieldy, for the British bargain-hunters and gatherers who weekly stalk these sales.

Yet in the spirit of Jonas Chuzzlewit, there is a rule for bargains: do other men, for they would do you. And in the best traditions of the marketplace, there are other apophthegms, all bristling with a British commonsense: bargains made in speed are commonly repented at leisure; it's a bad bargain where nobody gains; make every bargain clear and plain, that none may afterward complain: he'll ne'er get a pennyworth that is afraid to ask a price.

Buying something — or selling — is only part of the story. Most people do not drive 20 miles to an unkempt park just to buy a kettle; nor do they catch a bus (perhaps changing once or twice) to buy a video recorder with no visible guarantee. These car-boot sales are guided by a more basic human urge: the need to haggle.

The souk-sense is not just an oriental habit, relished by visitors to Marrakesh, Casablanca, Cairo, Lucknow or Penang. In Britain, too, we seize the chance to lock horns with sellers of goods. Every Sunday we bargain, beat down, chaffer, dicker, higgle, palter, squabble and wrangle. "A bit more: a bit less"; "Come off it, that's robbery: No it's not, it's a Christmas present"; "I'll take five for twenty quid: I'll give you three, plus this sweet budgie"; "Leave it out, I've got a wife and six kids to feed: Let me buy that for a tenner then and you can feed them".

Whereas its owner never plies you with cups of sweet tea, nor ever introduces a moustachioed cousin down the road with even better carpets, the British car boot is about the size of an Eastern merchant's stall. Go to one this Sunday and wallow in its challenges. Take your time, size up your quarry, rehearse your best lines and move in for the kill. "How much is that toaster for?" "Forty pounds for you, madam." "What do you take me for?" "A toast-eater, of course." "Right, I'll give you twenty-five. I only eat croissants."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Steps to reinforce child protection

From the Chair of Action on Child Exploitation

Sir, Alan Franks ("Taking liberties", Magazine, March 16) is right to point out that although we have a national register of children at risk of sexual abuse, there is no comparable register of child sex offenders. There is now considerable weight of opinion amongst those bodies charged with protecting children, as well as among the general public, in favour of the creation of such a register.

The view of Action on Child Exploitation is that paedophilia is a sexual preference that will stay for life, that changing the behaviour of child sexual offenders is very difficult, and that the success rate is very low. We therefore believe that, in the interests of protecting children, there should be adequate methods of controlling paedophiles and every attempt should be made to find an effective way of changing their behaviour.

The problem is exacerbated by the very low conviction rate of offenders. Even those sentenced by the court are free to disappear into the community on completing their time in prison or on licence or when their probation orders are terminated. Generally they have to engender suspicion or commit another offence before police records are checked.

We believe that the arguments for a register outweigh the intrusions into civil liberties which its establishment would mean. Moreover we believe that it should be held by the police and, with normal safeguards, be available to statutory child-protection agencies. A requirement on the offender, punishable as an offence if disregarded, should be to keep the register informed of changes in address or employment.

We also believe that the register should be kept in such a way as to ensure that the child-protection agencies are warned when paedophiles move into their area, particularly when they move into households where there are children or into jobs with power over or contact with children.

This letter is written with the full understanding of the civil-liberty issues at stake. Children have civil liberties too, one of which is to be free from abuse by adults. I was pleased to learn today that the Government is to give serious consideration to such a measure.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID NIVEN,
Chair,
Action on Child Exploitation,
16 Kent Street, Birmingham.
March 22.

From Ms Andrea Kelmanson

Sir, The repeated attempts of Thomas Hamilton, the Dunblane killer, to work with young children should serve as a warning to all parents to look carefully at the clubs and youth groups which their children attend, and at their systems for recruiting, selecting, supervising and supporting volunteers and paid staff.

In 1993 the Home Office, in collaboration with a number of voluntary organisations, published a code of practice, *Safe from Harm*, which describes the steps which a well run group should take to create a secure environment for the care of children. Similar guidance has since been issued by Volunteer Development Scotland and Child Care Northern Ireland.

One practical step which anxious parents can take is to find out whether the club or group which their child attends is aware of and adhering to the standards set by these codes.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREA KELMANSON
(Director),
The Volunteer Centre UK,
Carriage Row,
183 Eversholt Street, NW1.
March 20.

Nature of evil

From the Reverend Jonathan Smith

Sir, Writing in response to the murderous act of Thomas Hamilton at Dunblane, the Reverend John Camp (letter, March 21) asks, "Is mental disorder to be equated with evil?". His question clearly requires a negative answer, which may then have some bearing on the culpability of the perpetrator.

However, in no way does it diminish the intrinsic evil contained in the wicked deed. Evil encompasses that area where frustration, pain and death spread despoliation beyond the reach of man's clear responsibility.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN SMITH,
The Rectory,
3 The Moor, Carlton, Bedford.
March 21.

From Mr Gerry Hanson

Sir, Mr Camp's question misinterprets the reactions which it implicitly criticises. Dunblane demonstrates how an unbalanced person can commit an evil act. It is the *deed* which was evil — the perpetrator mentally ill.

Such an interpretation, I suggest, makes the deed no less evil but is in accord with the Christian concept of "hate the sin, but love the sinner".

Yours truly,
GERRY HANSON,
Potters Lodge, 74a Slough Road,
Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire.
March 21.

'Placepersons' and votes of principle

From the Bishop of Oxford

Sir, William Rees-Mogg ("Tories but not conservatives", March 18) describes those who voted against Lady Young's amendment in the Family Law Bill as "a coalition of permissives and placepersons". Whether the period of reflection and consideration before a divorce is granted should be one year, 18 months, or longer is not a matter of Christian principle but of judgment.

I voted in favour of the one-year period above all because those in the House who have most to do with children believe that more than one year would be harmful to children of divorcing parents.

This, for example, was the position of Lady Faithfull, who sadly died last week (obituary, March 14; and see letter, March 19) and nobody in their right mind could describe her as either a permissive or a placeperson. Her life was a passionate and practical concern for children and young people. When it is a question of balancing many factors, it is the judgment of people like her that one tends to trust.

Yours faithfully,
†RICHARD OXON:,
Diocesan Church House,
North Hinksey, Oxford.
March 19.

From Mr Tristan Garel-Jones, MP for Watford (Conservative)

Sir, It seems that anyone who does not vote with Lord Rees-Mogg is a placeperson and not a Conservative.

If there was a treaty too far (which I dispute), it was not Maastricht but the Single European Act on which most of today's Euro-sceptics were notably silent. Maastricht, to a substantial degree, reins in some of the excesses that emerged from the Single Act.

No doubt Lord Rees-Mogg would describe both Baroness Thatcher and Lord Tebbit as placepersons for having voted for it.

I agree that the Conservative Party is a broad church, but even though Lord Rees-Mogg displays distinctly Whiggish tendencies, I would be so presumptuous as to say he should not be permitted to continue to describe himself as a Conservative if he wishes to do so.

Yours faithfully,
TRISTAN GAREL-JONES,
House of Commons.
March 19.

From Mr Raymond W. Baldwin

Sir, I protest most strongly at Lord Rees-Mogg's unfair criticism of the Prime Minister.

The statesman whose opinion I would most value is one who does seem, in the midst of a Babel of journalists and assorted experts, to be trying to sort out the wheat from the chaff.

A chief point of guidance for me is to look at the one who appears to have striven with greatest judgment and determination to solve the perennial problem of the IRA. Here the outstanding candidate is of course John Major.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND W. BALDWIN,
Penn, Alderley Edge, Cheshire.
March 19.

From Mr Hugh Mackenzie

Sir, William Rees-Mogg uncharacteristically errs. The Lord Chancellor is neither "gullible" nor "too much impressed by official advice". He is widely recognised as being principled, fair and hugely competent.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH M. MACKENZIE,
Hilton of Cadboll Farmhouse,
Fearn, By Tain, Ross-shire.

Methodist numbers

From the Secretary of the Methodist Conference

Sir, Your headline, "Methodists close to becoming extinct" (News in brief, March 21), rather overstates the case. At the present rate of loss I calculate it will be 41 years before the official membership of the Methodist Church is reduced to zero. In terms of the wider community role which you cite it would be 74 years. Conservationists would welcome such a time-span.

Of course the picture is more complicated. It would take far less time to undermine the viability of the Church as an institution, because church buildings and organisation need a certain level of membership to support them. That is why the Church needs to confront the facts, and why we have published them.

The other side of the coin is that 1,554 churches out of 6,678 (23.27 per cent) increased their membership in the last three years.

The resultant picture may well be not extinction but a stronger, if smaller strain.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN BECK,
The Methodist Church
Conference Office,
25 Marylebone Road, NW1.
March 21.

From Mr Stephen Plunkett

Sir, The news of an exodus of members from the Methodist Church means there is only one conclusion if it is to survive — unification with the Anglican Church. The erosion of its natural membership base applies to all established churches. Yet the need for an active and creative spiritual dimension in daily life and a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ is all the more important today.

Few people are equipped to cope alone with the daily crossfire of modern life, where potential relationships, within and outside marriage, are increasingly undermined. This is where leadership within the broad body of the Church is needed. A stronger church with a more informal institutional structure can provide the service that people require. It is then up to church leaders as well as the lay members to reconsider how to get their message across.

I appeal to the leaders of both the Methodist and Anglican churches to reopen the talks that Archbishop Ramsey originated several decades ago. The infusion of new blood and enthusiasm after a unification would lead the way for renewal and growth within the Church.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN PLUNKETT,
17 Wandle Road, SW17.
March 21.

Censorship chip

From Mrs Jill King

Sir, The current debate on the proposed censorship button (report, "Bottomley orders tests on TV clean-up chip" and leading article, March 19) misses the central issue.

If our children and ultimately society can only be protected from the results of undesirable elements on television by a resort to technology, it can only be assumed that control and decision-making within the family have been transferred to the younger generation.

If this is the case, who will make the decision to install the device and for how long will it stay in place, given the seemingly ever-increasing transfer of power?

Yours faithfully,
JILL KING,
4 Groby Court,
Groby Road, Altrincham, Cheshire.
March 20.

From Mrs R. Stewart-Jones

Sir, Those parents who cannot control verbally what their children watch on television will probably have to ask those same children how to manipulate the "V-chip".

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY STEWART-JONES,
Harcourt House,
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex.
March 18.

Caught speeding

From Mr Michael Henderson-Begg

Sir, If the Kent police, using a laser camera, can in one hour catch 183 motorists exceeding the speed limit in a restricted area (report, March 19), and then fine them £40 each, surely by earning over £7,000 an hour the camera, even taking into account the administrative costs involved in collecting the fines, must recoup its installation and maintenance costs in a relatively short time.

Rather than introduce costly traffic "calming" measures, which end up being of more inconvenience to local residents than to the motorists they are meant to deter, would it not be more economical for all local councils to install such cameras?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HENDERSON-BEGG,
66 Westbury Road,
New Malden, Surrey.
March 20.

Weekend Money letters, page 44

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

In the chair

From Lord Esher

Sir, You publish today, alongside one another, letters from two ladies. One describes herself as a chair, the other as a chairperson — both to my mind equally absurd. Why have we not in England, years ago, borrowed the Scots word, convenor, which simply solves this silly problem.

Yours truly,
ESHER,
Snowball Hill, Russell's Water,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
March 19.

Cherie Blair

From Mr Christopher Frazer

Sir, It is specious of Peter Hitchens, of the *Daily Express*, to suggest (letter, March 21) that Cherie Blair's political views are relevant today because she might once have chosen a political career.

The plain fact is that she is not a candidate for public office, and her opinions are as irrelevant as those of any other politician's spouse.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER FRAZER,
2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, EC4.
March 21.

Artistic integrity of musical soundbite

From the Chairman of the Richard Strauss Society

Sir, You report today that the conductor, Claudio Abbado, is suing his record company, Deutsche Grammophon, on the ground (among others) that they have damaged the artistic integrity of Gustav Mahler's music by compiling a compact disc consisting of slow movements from four of his symphonies.

There are historical precedents where a composer was happy to produce what might be called a "soundbite" of his own work. Richard Strauss produced two waltz sequences from his opera *Der Rosenkavalier* and a symphonic fantasy from his opera *Die Frau Ohne Schatten*. Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's piano work, *Pictures at an Exhibition*, could hardly be said to damage Mussorgsky's artistic integrity.

The real reason behind the move to compilations is simply one of economics. I suspect few composers of the past, had they had the opportunity of enjoying extra revenue from their works, would have felt their integrity under threat.

The serious music lover does not have to buy these compilations, but must realise that their high sales enable record companies to invest in really first-class new recordings, such as Decca's reported £1 million on Solti conducting *Die Frau Ohne Schatten* (1992).

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GOLDSMITH,
Chairman,
Richard Strauss Society,
Whitecroft, Poole Street,
Cavendish, Sudbury, Suffolk.
March 20.

From Mr Robert Layton

Sir, Richard Morrison ("Who killed the great dictators?", Arts, March 20) may or may not be right in his surmise that there are no charismatic conductors nowadays, though the same might be said of critics. I can't imagine scholar-critics like Ernest Newman or Eric Blom, writing in the 1950s, or writers like Compton Mackenzie, having any more truck with the cannibalisation of Mahler symphonies than has Abbado.

Mr Morrison errs in imagining that record executives are trying to widen the public for good music. Their interest is not so commercially pure, but rather purely commercial, and if shredding the Mona Lisa and selling bits of it would make them money they would do it.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LAYTON,
112 Goldhurst Terrace, NW6.
March 21.

From Mr Max Prola

Sir, Richard Morrison relates that conductors now rank rather low in the hierarchy of today's opera house, a venue in which "musical values are mocked by wacky stage concepts, and conductors don't seem to object".

He forgets that one conductor has stepped forward to stem the tide of insane opera productions. Our own Sir Edward Downes courageously refused to be associated with a horrendous *Nabucco* that he was to have conducted in the Royal Opera's Verdi Festival this summer (report, December 23, 1995). Let us hope that others, conductors and singers alike, will emulate him.

Yours truly,
MAX PROLA,
The Croft,
High Leigh, Knutsford, Cheshire.
March 21.

Bar on the Internet

From Mr Neil Addison

Sir, Barrister Peter Gray (report, March 20) will not find the Bar rules helpful to him when advertising his services on the Internet.

If clients want to use his services they will have to go through a solicitor, which means e-mailing the solicitor, who then e-mails Mr Gray, who will have to e-mail his reply to the solicitor to e-mail back to the client: a procedure which does rather put the Bar in the slow lane of the information superhighway.

Things are not so bad, however, for foreign clients, who can contact Mr Gray directly. He can be directly e-mailed from Calais but not from Dover.

As the 21st century approaches the Bar remains stuck with its 19th-century restrictive practices.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL ADDISON,
5 Garsdale Road,
Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear.
March 21.

Canada geese

From Mr Ron Robins

Sir, I am sure the Canada Goose Conservation Society (letter, March 19) has laudable aims, but having picked my way carefully to the beach across my lawn in British Columbia through Canada goose committee meetings discussing world domination (and who can gainsay the success of their ambitions?) I feel Canada goose conservation takes the biscuit.

Your faithfully,
RON ROBINS,
The Long Barn, Home Farm,
Hartham, Corsham, Wiltshire.
March 20.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 22: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh today visited Gloucestershire and were received at Cam and Dursley Station by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr Henry Elwes).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness drove past Slimbridge School to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, and were received by Lady Scott and the Chairman Designate (Mr Hugh Mellor).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh toured the sanctuary, viewing nature activities and the planned Millennium project, and met members of the Council, staff and project managers.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, and were received by the Chairman of the Governors (Sir Michael Angus), the Principal (Professor Arthur Jones) and the Mayor of Cirencester (Mr Deryck Nash).

The Queen, with the Duke of Edinburgh, attended a Luncheon with members of the College, given by the Chairman of the Governors.

Later Her Majesty and His Royal Highness toured the College, viewing various research projects, new accommodation and academic facilities.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 22: The Prince Edward, Honorary Chairman, Charter for Business, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Young Canadians Challenge, today gave a Luncheon at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 22: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this morning visited St Mellons Estate Project, St Mellons Community Enterprise Centre, Crickhowell Road, St Mellons, Cardiff, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan (Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards RNR).

Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon attended the Women in Wales Luncheon at the City Hall, Cardiff.

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, later visited the Fund's Shop at Beaufort Court, Monmouth, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent (Sir Richard Hanbury Tenison).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 22: The Prince of Wales this morning left Royal Air Force Northolt for a day visit to Bologna, Italy.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, this afternoon opened the Urban Renaissance Exhibition at the San Giorgio in Poggiale.

Mr Stephen Lamport and Mr Allan Percival were in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, Army Air Corps, this evening attended the Annual Officers Dinner at Middle Wallop, Hampshire.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 22: The Duchess of Kent today opened the Ferens Building, the University of Hull and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Humberside (Mr Anthony Bethell).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Holderness Community Health Trust's new day care centre, Park Street, Hull: and later visited Wansbeck Primary School, Wenning Grove, Longhill Estate Hull, Humberside.

Service dinner

The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons)

General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Colonel of The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons) Regiment, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh.

Dinner

Lamb Chambers

A dinner was given by Lamb Chambers at Scribes on Thursday, March 21, 1996, to mark the appointment of Judge David Ellis to the South Eastern Circuit Bench. Mr Jonathan Cole presided. The toast to Judge Ellis was proposed by Mr Anthony McNeile.

Mill Hill School

Mr William Winfield has been appointed Headmaster of Mill Hill School, London, effective Monday, March 11, 1996. He joined the School in 1970 and became Head of Modern Languages in 1975, rising to Deputy Headmaster in 1993.

Lecture

University of Wales Swansea

Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, Pro-Chancellor of the Federal University of Wales, delivered the 1996 Lord Morris Memorial Lecture yesterday at the University of Wales Swansea. Lord Richard, QC, President of the University of Wales Swansea, was in the chair.

Weekend birthdays

Princess Eugenie of York is 6 today.

TODAY: Professor H.C. Allen, American historian, 79; Mr Michael Atherton, cricketer, 28; Mr Norman Bailey, baritone, 63; Sir Roger Bannister, former Master, Pembroke College, Oxford, and first man to run sub-four minute mile, 67; Mr Bryan Bass, Headmaster, City of London School, 62; Professor R.J. Bennett, geographer, 48; Professor Francis Berry, poet and Shakespearean scholar, 81; Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP, 43; Mr Barry Cryer, comedian and writer, 61; Professor Michael Gleeson, otolaryngologist, 48; Mr Peter Godfrey, chartered accountant, 72; the Rev Dr Peter Graves, superintendent minister, Westminster Central Hall, 53; Professor Kenneth J. Gregory, Warden, Goldsmiths' College, 58; Ms Lis Howell, former director of programmes, GMTV, 45; Mr Akira Kurosawa, film director, 86; Sir Geoffrey Leigh, chairman, Allied London Properties, 63; Sir David McNee, former Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 71; Mr Michael Manser, architect, 67; Mr Andrew Mitchell, MP, 40; Mr Alfred Morris, MP, 68; Mr Michael Nyman, composer, 52; Sir Ralph Perring, former Lord Mayor of London, 91; Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman, Merseyside Development Corporation, 61; Sir Ian Todd, former President, Royal College of Surgeons, 75; Sir Edward Warner, diplomat, 85; Sir Denis Wright, diplomat, 85.

TOMORROW: Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Guy Acland, Deputy Master of the Household and Equerry to Her Majesty, 50; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, 53; Mr David Atkinson, MP, 56; Mr Roy Berridge, former chairman, South of Scotland Electricity Board, 74; Miss Barbara Daly, make-up artist, 51; Dame Jane Drew, architect, 85; His Honour James Fox-Andrews, QC, 74; Mr Richard Giordano, chairman, British Gas, 62; Professor John Hedgecoe, professor of photography, 59; Mr David Jewell, Master, Haileybury and Imperial Service College, 62; Sir John Kendrew, former President, St John's College, Oxford, 79; Miss Sonia Lannaman, athlete, 40; Sir Peter Leslie, former chairman, Commonwealth Development Corporation, 65; Mr Benjamin Luxon, baritone, 59; Sir Peter Meinertzhagen, former general manager, Commonwealth Development Corporation, 76; Judge Suzanne Norwood, 70; Mr Herman Ouseley, chairman, Commission for Racial Equality, 51; the Earl of Selborne, 56; Professor Dorothy Severin, Professor of Spanish, Liverpool University, 54; Miss Maude Storey, former president, Royal College of Nursing, 66; Mr Alan Sugar, chairman, Amstrad, 49; Mr P.D.R. Venning, secretary, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 49; Professor H.B. Whittington, geologist, 80; Mr P.S. Winfield, former senior partner, Healey and Baker, 69.

A portrait of the actor Michael Gambon, part of a portfolio which won Paul Massey, whose work regularly appears in The Times Magazine, the Nikon Arts and Entertainments Photographer of the Year Award for the third successive year

Memorial services

Professor Charles Fletcher

The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of ASH, attended a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Professor Charles Fletcher held on Thursday in the Chapel of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, St Paul's Cathedral. The Archdeacon of London officiated, assisted by the Rev John Paul and Prebendary Stephan Hopkinson, brother-in-law, led the prayers.

Mrs Caroline Clarke, daughter, read the lesson. Dr Veronica Lyell, granddaughter, read from Professor A.V. Hill's *The Ethical Dilemma of Science*. Professor Dame Margaret Turner-Warwick paid tribute and Canon Eric James gave an address.

Prebendary Chad Varah was robed and in the Sanctuary. Among others present were:

The Hon Mrs Fletcher (widow), Mr and Mrs Mark Fletcher (son and daughter-in-law), Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, MP, and Lady Lyell (son-in-law and daughter), Mr Christopher Clarke, QC (son-in-law), Mr Benjamin Fletcher, Miss Ellen Fletcher, Mr Oliver Lyell, Miss Mary-Kate Lyell, Alexander Lyell, Miss Henrietta Clarke, Miss Louisa Clarke and Edward Clarke (grandchildren), Lord and Lady Mottistone (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), the Hon Peter and Mrs Seely, the Hon Mrs Nicholson, Mr Christopher Seely, Mr Robin Fletcher, Miss Jane Fletcher, Mrs Paul Paget, Mr and Mrs D M Thistleton-Smith, Mr Anthony Thistleton-Smith, Mr Nicholas Thistleton-Smith, Miss Katherine Thistleton-Smith, Mrs James Nicholson, Miss Lara Nicholson, Mrs Tessa Phipps.

Lord Phillimore, the Dowager Lady Huntingfield, Lord and Lady Henderson of Brompton, Lord Horder, Sir John and the Hon Lady Stephenson, the Hon Lady (Cordelia) Vanneck, the Hon Miranda Phillimore, Sir Roger Cary (representing the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the BBC), Lady Rose, Sir Christopher Booth (representing Royal College of Physicians), Sir Colin Dollery (Dean, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London University) with Emeritus Professor R B Welbourn (also representing Hammersmith Hospital) and Mrs Welbourn.

Sir Andrew Huxley, OM, (Trinity College, Cambridge), Lady (James) Mount, General Sir Michael and Lady Gow, Sir Richard Bayliss, Lady McMichael, Sir John and Lady Acland, Sir Edward Ford, Mr David and Lady Celia McKenna, Dr Alan and Lady Caroline Borg, Mrs Patrick Scott, Miss Jill Scott, Miss Emily Scott, Mr Tim Hunter, Mrs Katy Hunter, Mr and Mrs Francis Huntington, Mr Matthew Huntington, Mr Richard Huntington, Mrs Cathy Birtles, Mr and Mrs John Nicholson, Mrs E Norman-Butler, Mr Leonard Miall, Professor and Mrs Richard Schilling, Mr and Mrs G L W Bonney, Mrs Margaret Hunt, Professor and Mrs John Shillingford, Professor G S Kilpatrick.

Mr William Harris, Professor Hugh Bentall, Mr John Williams, Dr and Mrs Gordon Levinson, Mrs Christopher Arnander, Mrs John Baker, Dr John Horder, Mr and Mrs Tom Young, Professor and Mrs E G L Bywaters, Dr Peter and Dr Margaret Elmes, Mrs Peter Fanshawe, Professor and Mrs Robert Steiner, Dr Beulah Bewley, Mr J H G Sunnucks, Mr Michael Russell, Dr Martyn Partridge, Dr and Mrs Martin Wright, Professor P J Lawther.

Judge MacLaren Webster, QC, Professor and Mrs J G Scadding, Dr P M D'Arcy Hart, Mr H Whitbread, Dr J D Hill, Mrs H Usherwood, Professor C Caro, Mr and Mrs J Gold, Mrs J Simon, Dr P Hugh-Jones, Mr P Colville, Mr E Chamberlayne, Mr R Sleight, Mrs M Stuart, Professor J M B Hughes, Dr L Zander, Mrs R Lee, Professor H Joyce, Mrs J Villiers, Miss P Leslie Melville, Ms P White, Mrs J Hawke, Dr K W Lovel.

Ms P Furness (chief executive, ASH), Ms M Lens and Dr B Frankland (National Asthma Campaign), Dr S G Owen (Medical Research Council), Mr J Henley (British Diabetic Association), Dr A Hollman (British Cardiac Society), Mr D Church (Richmond Society) and Mrs Church with Mrs R Dickson; and Mrs J Vernon-Miles (The Bach Choir).

Mr R.D. Campbell

A celebration of the life and work of Mr Ronald Desmond Campbell was held yesterday at St Clement Danes, Strand. The Rev Peter Bishop officiated. Sir Donald Spiers, President of the Royal Aeronautical Society, and Mr Steven Brown, Secretary-General of the International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations, read the lessons. Sir Christopher Chataway, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, gave an address.

Miss Diana Law

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Miss Diana Law, Founder President of Action for Dysphasic Adults, was held yesterday at All Souls, Langham Place. Prebendary Richard Bewes officiated and the Rev Philip Warner led the prayers. Mr Ian Harley read the lesson and the Rev Dr John Stott, a Vice-President of Action for Dysphasic Adults, gave an address.

Weekend anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Alfred Milner, Viscount Milner, imperialist, Giessen, Germany, 1854; Michael Savage, Prime Minister of New Zealand 1935-40, Rothesay, Victoria, 1872; Sir Muirhead Bone, watercolourist and etcher, Glasgow, 1876; Juan Gris, painter and pioneer of Cubism, Madrid, 1887; Cedric Gibbons, film designer, Dublin, 1893; Erich Fromm, physiologist, Frankfurt am Main, 1900; Joan Crawford, actress, San Antonio, Texas, 1908; Wernher von Braun, pioneer of rocketry, Wirsitz, Germany, 1912; Jimmy Edwards, comedy actor, Barnes, 1920; Donald Campbell, holder of land and water speed records, Horley, Surrey, 1921.

DEATHS: Thomas Holcroft, dramatist and novelist, London, 1809; August von Kotzebue, dramatist, murdered, Mannheim, Germany, 1819.

London's first tramcars, designed by a Mr Train of New York, began operating from Bayswater, 1861.

Austin Peay, Governor of Tennessee, signed a statute forbidding the teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution in state schools, 1925.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Georgius Agricola (Georg Bauer), scientist, Clauchau, Germany, 1494; Joseph Liouville, mathematician, St Omer, France, 1809; William Morris, poet, artist, printer and socialist, Walthamstow, Essex, 1834; Silas K. Hocking, novelist and preacher, Brannel, Cornwall, 1850; Olive Schreiner, writer, Wittebergen, South Africa, 1855; Steve McQueen, film actor, Slater, Missouri, 1930.

DEATHS: Queen Elizabeth I, reigned 1558-1603, Richmond, 1603; Philip Dormer Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield, statesman and writer, London, 1773; John Harrison, horologist and inventor of the marine chronometer, London, 1776; Paul I, Emperor of Russia 1796-1801, assassinated, St Petersburg, 1801; Mary Tighe, poet, Woodstock, Co Kilkenny, 1810; Bertel Thorwaldsen, sculptor, Copenhagen, 1844; Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, poet, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1882; Charlotte Yonge, novelist, Otterbourne, 1901; Sir Edwin Arnold, poet and scholar, London, 1904; Jules Verne, author, Amiens, 1905; John Millington Synge, dramatist, Dublin, 1909; Enrique Granados, composer, drowned when the *Sussex* was torpedoed in the English Channel, 1916; Mrs Humphry Ward, novelist, London, 1920; Orde Charles Wingate, leader of the Chindits, killed in an air crash, Assam, 1944; Mary, Queen Consort of King George V, Marlborough House, 1953; Auguste Piccard, scientist and explorer of the stratosphere and sea depths, Lausanne, 1962; Bernard Law Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Hampshire, 1976.

The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race ended in a dead heat for the first time, 1877.

Denmark abolished capital punishment, 1911.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A.W. Astor and Miss J.D. Valentine

The engagement is announced between James, younger son of the Hon Hugh and Mrs Astor, of Reading, Berkshire, and Janine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs James Valentine, of Reading, Massachusetts.

Captain C.T.H. Beach and Miss L.E. Horwood

The engagement is announced between Captain Charles Beach, The Queen's Royal Lancers, son of Mr John Beach, of Antrim, Northern Ireland, and Mrs Joanna Lindop, of Shrewton, Wiltshire, and Louise, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Philip Horwood, of Pyrford, Surrey.

Mr I.R. Bruce and Miss J. Armson

The engagement is announced between Ian, youngest son of the late Mr L. Bruce and of Mrs Bruce, of West End, Woking, Surrey, and Julie, eldest daughter of Mr E. Armson and the late Mrs Armson, of Westwoodside, South Yorkshire.

Mr J.A. Cox and Miss C.L. King

The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Cox, of Paignton, Devon, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher King, of Streatley-on-Thames, Berkshire.

Mr T.E.W. King and Miss K.G.H. Imm

The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher King, of Streatley-on-Thames, Berkshire, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Imm, of Heybrook Bay, Devon.

Mr J.R. Doig and Miss J.L. Radford

Mr and Mrs Michael Radford, of St Margarets, Richmond upon Thames, are happy to announce the engagement of their younger daughter *Jacqueline* to *Jonathon*, eldest son of Mr Colin Doig, of Burnham, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Gillian Israel, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.

Mr G.H.G. Drury and Miss R.J. Medina-Suarez

The engagement is announced between Garth, son of Mr Charles Drury, of Sudbury, Suffolk, and of Mrs Fiona Ravenhill, of Bournemouth, Dorset, and Rosybel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Averol Medina, of Maracay, Venezuala.

Mr J. Durham Hall, QC and Miss J.H. Hart

Jonathan Hall and Hilary Hart are delighted to announce that they are to be married in May.

Commander T.J. Hosker, RN, and Miss H.K. Howcroft

The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs Donald Hosker, of Rugby, Warwickshire, and Heidi Howcroft, of Munich, Germany.

Mr G.S. Hudson and Miss M.D. Moss

The engagement is announced between Gordon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Brent Hudson, of Swavesey, Cambridgeshire, and Meachelle, eldest daughter of the late Mr Peter Moss and of Mrs Jean Moss, of Vancouver, Canada.

Dr C.M. Nutting and Dr M.K. Tipples

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Nutting, of Southampton, and Melanie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Bernard Tipples, of Staplehurst, Kent.

Dr N.C. Pegge and Dr S.H. Campbell

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs D.C. Pegge, of Hale Barns, Cheshire, and Sally, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs A.J.P. Campbell, of Brereton Park, Tattenhall, Chester.

Marriage

Mr I.R. Sinclair and Miss E.J. Belmonte

The marriage took place on March 16, 1996, at Dirleton Kirk, of Ian Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Keith Sinclair, of Nairobi, to Emma Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Vincent Belmonte, of North Berwick. The Rev Milton Cashman officiated.

Appointments

Sir Keith **Thomas**, FBA, and the Hon Simon **Sainsbury** have been reappointed trustees of the National Gallery.

Lord **Leconfield and Egremont** has been reappointed a member of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts.

Church news

New Dean of Salisbury

The Rev Derek Watson, Rector of St Luke and Christ Church, Chelsea, diocese of London, is to be Dean of Salisbury, succeeding the Very Rev Hugh Dickinson, who retires at the end of August.

Appointments

The Rev Stephen Bailey, Priest-in-Charge, St Michael, Betchworth, and St Mary the Virgin, Buckland: to be Rector, St Michael, Betchworth, and St Mary the Virgin, Buckland (Southwark).

The Rev Stuart Bain, Priest-in-Charge, united benefice of Whitworth w Spennymoor and of Merrington: to be also Rural Dean of Auckland (Durham).

The Rev Elaine Bardwell, Director of *Pastoral Studies, St Stephen's House, Oxford:* to be Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, New Marston (Oxford).

The Rev Sheila Ellis, Curate, St Luke, West Derby: Vicar, St John Chrysostom, Everton (Liverpool).

Church services tomorrow

Fifth Sunday in Lent

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.15 S Euch, Short Service (Batten), Of the glorious body dwelling (Plainsong), Rev I Barcroft: 6.30 SE. There is no rose (Joubert), Stanford in G. Mary's Magnificat (Carter). The Provost.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 S Euch. Darke in E. Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow): 3.30 Choral E. Stanford in A. Let all the world (Leighton)

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP: 9.15 HC: 11 Choral Euch & erection of the cross, Drake in E. Go to the dark Gethsemane (Bach). Rev Prof F Young: 3.45 EP: 4 Messiah - The Passion music.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 Choral M, Wash me throughly (Wesley): 10.30 Euch, Wood in the Phrygian mode, Canon D Galliee: 4 Choral E. Miserere mei (Allegri), Rev P Hallett.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green: 7.40 M, 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Ex ore innocentium (Ireland), Canon J Simpson: 2 Thanksgiving for the life of Fleur Lombard; 3.30 Choral E. St Paul's Service (Howells). Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley), Canon P Johnson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, 9.30 M: 11 S Euch, Missa Laudate Dominum de coelis (Lassus), Tenebrae factae sunt (Victoria). Rev P Brett: 3.15 E & Installation of Honorary Canons, Canterbury Service (Ridout): 6.30 Compline. Rev P Brett.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Crucifixus (Lotti), Canon C Hill: 3 E, Short Service (Gibbons), Blessed Jesu (Dvorak).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC, The Vice Provost: 9.30 Euch, The Provost: 11.15 S Euch, Darke in E, Salvator mundi (Tallis), Canon B Thompson: 4 Baptism: 6 Choral E, Wood in D, Salvator mundi (Blow), Canon D Knight.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch, Mass in E flat (Rheinberger), Canon O Conway: 11.30 Choral M, Benedictus (Plainsong), Canon O Conway: 3.30 Choral E, Stanford in G, The Angel Gabriel (Noell): 6.30 E, Canon O Conway.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M, Benedicite (Bairstow), Benedictus (Stanford in B flat), Teach me O Lord (Attwood), The Dean: 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Willis), Ave verum (Elgar): 3.30 E, Harwood in A flat, Christus factus est (Bruckner).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC: 10 M & Sermon, Canon O'Donovan: 11.15 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Super flumina Babylonis (Palestrina): 6 E, Howells in G, Wash me throughly (Wesley).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP: 8 Communion: 10.30 Euch, Deus Genitor and Byrd a 5 (Plainsong), Litany, Canon C Burch: 3 German Lutherans: 3 Polish Lutherans: 5.30 A thing most wonderful.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, The Dean, 10 M, Stanford in B flat, Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley), Canon D Hodgson: 11.15 HC, Messe Solennelle in C sharp minor (Vierne), Canon D Brown: 3.30 E, Collegium Regale (Tavener), A hymn to the Virgin (Britten).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis Capella Regalis (Caesar), Here my prayer O Lord (Purcell), O Lord the maker of all thing (Mundy), The Dean: 3.45 E, Preces (Rose): Noble in B minor: 7 Compline.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: Rev Dr I Fisher: 9.45 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Crucifixus (Lotti), The Sub Dean: 11.15 M, Te Deum in G (Williams), God so loved the world (Stainer), Dr D Macmillan: 6.30, Wesley in E, Salvator mundi (Blow), Canon T Chanter.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M: 10.30 Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), O bone Jesu (Palestrina), Provost: 4 Choral E, Farrant, Drop drop slow tears (Gibbons), Canon B Glover.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8, 12.30 HC: 9.30 S Euch, Missa in simplicitate (Agnus Dei) (Langlais): 11.15 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow), Benedictus in B flat (Stanford): 3.45 E, Nunc Dimittis (second service) (Gibbons), Crucifixus (mass in B minor) (Bach), Canon S Jackson: 5 Short recital of Passion music.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC: 10.30 L & Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Canon M Boyling: 3 Choral E, Tomkins Fauxbourdons, Canon M Boyling: 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L: 8, 12.15 H Euch: 9 Parish Euch, Rev N Court: 11 S Euch, Darke in F, Ave verum corpus (Byrd), The Canon: 3.30 Choral E, Second Service (Gibbons), Out of the deep (Morley): 6.30 Festal E & Sermon, The Dean.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP: 9 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Service in D (Leighton), Canon P Denby: 6.30 E, Second Service (Byrd), Rev H Ogden.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Miss J quam gloriosum (Victoria), The Reproaches (J Sanders): 6.30 E, Stanford in B flat, Angelus ad virginem (Willcocks).

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8 L: 8.15 HC: 9.30 M, Benedicite in F (Ashfield): 10.30 Euch, Missa Passionis Christi (Wills), The Dean: 3.30 E, Gray in F minor, Christus factus est (Bruckner).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Durston, 10 Euch, Litany (Loosemore), Mass for five voices (Byrd), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Canon J Davies: 11.30 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow), Jesus Saviour of the world (Chant 4), Beati quorum via (Stanford), Canon D Durston: 3 E, Magdalen Service (Leighton).

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 MP: 11 Judges' service, Te Deum Collegium Regale (Howells), I was Glad (Parry), The Bishop of Ely: 5 EP: 6.30 Euch of the Annunciation, Missa Bel Amfil (Lassus), Hide not thou thy face (Farrant), The Ven M Paton.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), In ieiunio et fletu (Tallis), Ave verum (Mozart), Rev D Painter: 3 E, Second Service (Gibbons), Crucifixus (Lotti), The Provost.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C, Chancellor: 11 S Euch, Ireland in C, Greater Love, Canon R Kirton: 3.15 Passiontide music/readings: 4.30 E; 5.45 Compline.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M, The Chancellor: 10 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Christus factus est (Bruckner), The Librarian: 5 EP: 6 The Crucifixion (Stainer).

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev A Jennings: 9.15 Parish C, The Provost: 11 Solemn Euch, Missa Brevis (Leighton), The Lamentation (Bairstow), Ave verum corpus (Mozart), The Provost; 4 E, Stanford in B flat, It is a thing most wonderful (Moore), Canon G Nairn-Briggs.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, 9.45 S Euch, Missa Cantuariensis (Rubbra), Let thy merciful ears O Lord (Mudd), The Very Rev R Lewis: 11.30 M, Benedicite (Sumsion in B flat), Benedictus (Stanford in A), Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley): 3 E, Salvator mundi (Blow), Preb D Goodman.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow), Wash me throughly (Wesley), Canon C Semper: 11.15 Euch, Missa Aedis Christi (Howells), Canon D Hutt: 3 E, Second Service (Leighton), Ye now have sorrow (Brahms), Rev Dr P Graves: 5.45 Organ Recital: 6.30 Evening, Canon A Harvey

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12: 5.30, 7 Mass: 10 MP: 10.30 Solemn Mass, Missa In te Domine speravi (Guerrero), In ieiunio et fletu (Tallis): O Domine Iesu Christe (Guerrero): 3.30 Solemn V&B, Magnificat primi toni (Victoria), Lamentations of Jeremiah (part 1) (Lassus); 4.30 Recital.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M: 10.30 Liturgy, Mass for five voices (Byrd), My soul there is a country (Parry), Rev Prof J Barton: 4.15 E: 5.30 St Matthew Passion (Bach).

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC: 10 S Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Rev E Norman: 11.30 M, Benedicite (Batten), Jubilate (fauxbourdons) (Moore): 4 E, St Paul's service (Howells), Tu es petrus (Palestrina).

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC: 11 Choral M, Salvator Mundi (Tallis), Blessed Jesu fount of mercy (Dvorak), Rev R Griffiths: 3.30 EP.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM: 11.30 SM, Mass for four voices (Byrd), In God alone is my soul at rest (Fessard), Rev P Turner.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 Morning HC, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Minister; 11.30 Morning, Crucifixus (Lotti), Minister: 6 Lenten talk: 8 Evening, Rev D Robertson.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Armagh: 10 HC: 11 M, Benedicite (Barnes in F), Praise to thee Lord Jesus: 3.15 Confirmation Service, Rutter in D, Rev H Moore.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 6 HC: 8.45 M: 11 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Benedictus (Moore), Vinea mea electa (Poulenc), The Ven G Cassidy: 3.15 E, Wesley in E, Christus factus est (Bruckner), Rev J Davies: 5.15 Recital.

ALL SAINTS', Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM: 10.20 MP: 11 HM, Missa Brevis (Walton), Rev P Johnstone: 6 Solemn E&B, Fauxbourdons (Willan), The Vicar.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 Communion; 11, Rev J Cook: 6.30 With all souls orchestra, Rev Dr J Stott.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Western Wind Mass (Taverner), Lamentations (daleth and heth) (Tallis).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC: 11 M, Lord for thy tender mercy's sake (Farrant): Dr P Elvy: 6 E, Dr P Elvy.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Rev S Downham: 11 Informal, Mr K Costa: 5, 7.30 Informal, Rev N Gumbel.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Quarti toni (Victoria), Ad Dominum cum tribularer (Byrd); 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass: 3.30 V & B, Vox in Rama (Wert).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC: 11 Morning, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 10 HC; 11 Morning, Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30 EP, Rev Dr R Gibbins.

ST ALBAN'S, Kent: 9.45 MP; 10.30 S Mass & Sermon.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC: Rev P Schmiege; 7 Jazz Vespers, Rev P Schmiege.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC: 11 M, Benedicite in B flat (Sumsion), Tristis est anima mea (Lassus), The Rector: 6.30 E, Stanford in G, Salutatio angelica (Moore), Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, The Lamentation (Bairstow), Missa Brevis (Palestrina), O saviour of the world (Goss), Canon J Oates: 6.30 Choral E, Purcell in E minor, O Lord in thy wrath (Gibbons), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch with L, Litany (Tallis), Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), *Drop, drop slow tears* (Leighton), Rev G Moore.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11, 6.30 Rev J McIndoe.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 9, 11 Mass, Missa Fiat Voluntas Tua (Andriessen), Stabat Mater (Pergolesi).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Viadana), Crucifixus pro nobis (Rubbra), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch: 10.30 S Euch, Missa Aedis Christi (Howells), I am the Resurrection (Croft), Rev D Lawson: 6 Choral E, Fauxbourdons (Holmes), Sancta Maria (Lheritier).

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch, Rev H Valentine: 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family, Fantasia in G minor (Bach), Rev D Richards: 6.30 HC, Rev J Meadway.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC: 10.30 MP & HC, Drop drop slow tears (Walton), Rev D Watson: 6.30 E, Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley), V Tschudin "Healing & Ethics".

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC: 9.45 Family C: 11 S Euch, Missa L'Hora Passa (Viadana), The Lamentation (Part 1) (Bairstow), Rev A Shaw.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), The Lamentation (Bairstow), Rev R Holoway.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC: 9.45 Euch, Rev B Schunemann: 11.30 Visitors, Rev C Herbert: 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee: 5 Choral E: 6.30 Evening Office in Lent.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington, W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Rev S Green: 11.15 Choral M, Rev M Fuller; 6.30 E, Mrs P Haines

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM: 11 HM, Missa brevis (Leighton), The Bishop of Chichester: 6 Solemn E & Solemn B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC: 10.30 Parish Euch, Mass Setting (Plainsong), Ich lasse dich nicht (Bach), Rev D Jones: 6 Passiontide Recital.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC: 11 Solemn Euch, Missa brevis (Leighton), Drop drop slow tears (Leighton), Set me as a seal (Walton), Rev N Dawson.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC: 10 Family Euch: 11 S Euch, Passion Sunday, Mass for four voices, Ave verum corpus (Byrd).

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC: 11 MP, Benedicite (Dyson), Attende Domine (Villette); 6.30 E.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM: 11 Solemn M, Missa "le bien que j'ai" (Goudimel), Perfice gressus meos (Lassus), Ne irascaris Domine (Byrd), Canon C Colven; 6 Stations of the Cross & Benediction.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC: 11 M & Sermon, Benedicite (Sumsion), Benedictus, A Hym to the Virgin (Britten), Canon J Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP, Like as the hart (Howells), Rev R Huxley.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch, Missa Octavi Toni (Lassus), Adoramus te, Christe (Nanino), Rev S Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Benedicite (Dyson in F), Ave Verum (Byrd), The Chaplain: 12.30 HC.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP, Benedicite omnia opera (Sumsion in B flat), Benedictus (Jackson), Salvator mundi (Blow), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 10 HC: 11 M, O vos omnes (Correa), Solus ad victimam (Leighton), Band of the Life Guards, Rev J Gough: 12.30 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Shaw, The Lamentation (Bairstow), Rev C French.

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Love the Lord your God, obey him, and hold fast to him: that is life for you and length of days.
Deuteronomy 30 : 20 (REB)

BIRTHS

ASHWORTH - On 18th March, to Linda (née Budenberg) and Simon, a daughter, Sara, a sister for Harry.

AVERILL - On 15th March 1996, to Ruth (née Knowles) and Paul, a daughter, Rea Elizabeth.

LIGHTBURN - Samuel Christian Wallis Foster Lightburn born 22nd March, 9lbs 15oz and smiling.

MORGAN-OWEN - On 16th March, to Sally (née Austin) and Huw, a daughter, Elizabeth Gwendlian.

MOUNTBATTEN - On March 20th 1996, to Penny (née Thompson) and Ivar, a daughter.

PYM - On March 11th at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to Susan and Hugh, a daughter, *Kirsty Fiona*, a sister for Andrew and Jonathan.

RICHARDS - On 19th March at The Portland Hospital, to Eunice (née Halward) and Rodney, a son, Piers.

WATSON - On 4th February, to Fiona and Charles, a daughter, Rosie Eleanor, baby sister to Jack.

WHITE - Julie (née Craik) and Stephen of Rodenhurst Road, Clapham, London, are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Charles Edward John on Thursday 21st March.

DEATHS

BOTTRALL - On 21st March Margaret died peacefully at Edward House, Cambridge, aged 86. Much loved and deeply missed. Requiem Mass at Little St Mary's Church, Cambridge, on Tuesday 2nd April at 2 pm, followed by cremation.

BARHAM JOHNSON - On 20th March in Sheringham, Catherine Mary aged 100 years. Funeral Service at 1pm on Thursday March 28th in Welborne Church, Norfolk. Memorial Service at 2.30 pm on Friday April 26th in St Peter's Church, Sheringham. No flowers please but donations for All Saints Centre, Norwich, may be sent to Blyth Funeral Services, 4 Cremer Street, Sheringham, Norfolk.

BREWSTER - On 21st March at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Rev. Lester Brewster of Wallington, Surrey and St Moritz. Funeral on Friday 29th March at 12.45 pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Queen Mary's Avenue, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey. Donations if desired to Cancer Research or the Royal Marsden Hospital. Flowers and other enquiries to W.A. Truelove & Son Ltd., 118 Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey.

CORBET - On March 20th 1996 peacefully Sir John Vincent Corbet Bt., M.B.E., DL., of Adderley and Acton Reynald. Funeral Service at St Bartholomew's Church, Moreton Corbet, on Monday March 25th at 2.15 pm. Donations to St Bartholomew's Church. Enquiries to W.R.R. Pugh & Son, (01743) 344646.

CROOK - Hilda Muriel, 85 years (née Howell), peacefully on 20th March. Funeral Service on 1st April at 11.30 am at St John the Baptist Church, Church Grove, Hampton Wick, followed by cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium. Family flowers only, but donations in memory to Parkinson's Disease Society, c/o Garners Funeral Services, Wolverton House, Wolverton Avenue, Kingston upon Thames KT2 7QE.

DALE - Margaret Jesse, died peacefully March 21st. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Greys Hill, Henley-on-Thames March 28th at 1 pm.

DEY - Dorothy, peacefully on 21st March 1996 aged 89. Mother of Bridget Garnett and Andrew and much loved Grandmother. Funeral 12 noon 29th March at Semington Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for St Bartholomew's Church, Corsham, Roof Appeal, c/o H Merrett, 57a Pickwick Road, Corsham, SN13 9BS. 01249 713134.

DICKSON - John Heron Dunbar on March 20th in Norwich. Aged 71 years. A dearly loved father and grandfather. Funeral Service at St Andrews Church, Lammas on Wednesday March 27th at 3 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for The Childrens Hospice, Quidenham c/o Duckers Funeral Service, 25 White Hart Street, Aylsham, Norfolk. tel: (01263) 733176.

DUFFY - James Patrick passed away at St James Hospital, Leeds, on March 20th aged 74. Beloved husband of Anne, dearly loved father of Tomas and a dear grandfather. Cortege will leave home on Wednesday March 27th at 1.10 pm for service and cremation at Lawnswood Crematorium at 1.30 pm. Flowers may be sent to the Private Chapels of Wm Dodgson and Son, Lupton Avenue, Leeds LS9 6EQ.

FOX - Kay (née Day) peacefully at home on 19th March 1996, dearly beloved wife of the late Colonel Harold Fox. She will be sadly missed by her family and many friends. Funeral Service on Friday 29th March at Guildford Crematorium at 2.30 pm. Enquiries to Freeman Brothers F/D. tel: (01483) 264890.

HELY - Air Commodore Arthur Hubert McMath (Tim), CB, OBE, former ADC to HM the Queen. Peacefully on Thursday 21st March at King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst. Beloved husband of Laura, loving father of Michael, Jane, John, and Thriné, grandfather of Christopher, Timothy, Andrew, Stephen, Nichola, Mark, Michael (Duff), James and Sarah, and great-grandfather of Charles, Meagan, and Rhiannon. Funeral on Thursday 28th March at Our Lady of England RC Church, Storrington, West Sussex, at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the King Edward VII Hospital Macmillan Fund.

HORE - Hilda Agnes widow of Cmdr. R.W. Hore, D.S.C. R.N. retd. Much loved and loving aunt.

MACDONALD - Dr. Allan Duncan MB, ChB, MFOM, DPH, DCH, DIH, DObst. aged 71 years, peacefully at St Peter & St James Hospice, Wivelsfield Green on 20th March 1996. Formerly, for 25 years a Member of British Rail Medical Department. Dearly loved and loving husband of Ann. Funeral Service at Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton on Wednesday 27th March at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired for Imperial Cancer Research Fund, may be sent to Frank Davey & Co., 31 High Street, Hurstpierpoint, W. Sussex BN6 9TT. tel: (01273) 832179.

MACKARNESS - On 18th March in Australia, Richard Mackarness M.B. B.S. D.P.M. aged 79, much loved husband of Hitty (died 1984), father of Patrick, and grandfather of George and Clare. Funeral yesterday. Letters welcomed by Patrick, 21 Dundas Road, Mount Martha, Vic 3934.

MARSDEN - Ivy on March 19th peacefully at Farnborough Hospital, Kent. Funeral Service to be held at St George's Church, Bickley, Kent, at 12.30 pm on Tuesday March 26th. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to N.S.P.C.C. or Farnborough Hospital. Enquiries to W. Uden & Sons Ltd., tel: (01689) 822291.

POWELL - Charles Edward Lionel, Wing Commander, R.A.F. (Rtd) (230 Squadron) On March 16th, at Taunton, Somerset, aged 83. Funeral, St Peter's Church, Worfield, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, Friday March 29th, 12 noon. Flowers, or donations for The R.A.F. Benevolent Fund and S.S.A.F.A., c/o Perry and Phillips Funeral Directors, tel: (01746) 765255.

SMITH - On 21st March 1996 peacefully at Blandford Hospital, Willoughby Silk, Musicologist and Horn-Player. Dearly loved by family and friends. Funeral Service at Bryanston School Church, Blandford, Dorset on Tuesday 2nd April 1996 at 2 pm. No flowers by request but donations if desired for The Helen Smith Fund Hanford School c/o Colin J. Close Funeral Service, 1B Salisbury Street, Blandford, Dorset, tel: (01258) 453133.

SMITH - Donald Saxton died suddenly in Solihull on Saturday March 16th, aged 74 years. Dearly loved by both family and friends. Your kind and gentle spirit will be with us always. Funeral Service to take place at Yardley Crematorium March 26th at 1 pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Stratford Volunteer Bureau, Trinity St, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6NW.

STRACHAN - Duncan Neilson. On March 19th suddenly but peacefully at home with Nicola Palmer his loving partner for 18 years. Dearly loved father of Edward and Joanna and much loved brother of Sheana. Funeral at St Columba's, Pont Street, at 12 noon on Tuesday 26th March. Family flowers only.

TERRY - John on 21st March 1996 suddenly but peacefully at home aged 69 years, much loved husband of Heather and treasured father of Susan, Carolyn, Susan and Stephen, proud grandfather and dear brother. Much loved and respected. Former manager of Nat West Bank, Beaconsfield. Service on Friday 29th March at 12 noon at St Mary's Church, Batsford, Moreton-in-Marsh. Flowers if desired or enquiries to Allen & Son on (01608) 650633.

TERRY - James Arthur on 21st March 1996 peacefully in his 92nd year at Lord Harris Court, Sindlesham, Berkshire, dearly loved by Ann, Peter, Mary and their families. Chairman of the R.M.B.I. 1961-1980. Funeral private for family and close friends. Family flowers only but donations if desired to James Terry Court, Croydon or the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, Farnham. A Thanksgiving Service will be held later.

VINCENT - Doris on March 21st peacefully in hospital aged 89. Wife of the late Walter and beloved mother of Patricia. Cremation at Golders Green on March 26th at 3.45 pm. No flowers please, donations if desired to Iris Fund c/o Thomas Tresize, 4 Cuckwell Street, London EC1R 1SD.

WATLING - On March 21st peacefully and with great dignity aged 105 Isabel, widow of John Basil: dearly loved mother of Paul and the late Peggy. Funeral at St Andrew's Church, Chew Magna, on Friday March 29th at 2 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the Royal National Institute for the Blind c/o Michael W. Rowe, Funeral Director, Tunbridge Cottage, Chew Magna, Bristol BS18 8SP.

ZORZA - Victor died peacefully in London on March 20th. Loved by his family in England, USA and Poland, and celebrated for his life. Contributions to continue his work should be sent to The British Russian Hospice Society, 279 Ivydale Road, London, SE15 3DZ.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BROWN - Oliphant Murray born 100 years ago (24th March 1896) at Lennoxtown, Stirlingshire, died 1994. Remembered with love by his family.

PENDEREL - Harold Penderel of Garth, Pontardawe. Born this day one hundred years ago and who died July 23rd 1967. 'My near'st and dearest enemy' MOB.

SEVERN - Joseph Ross on Thursday 23rd March 1995. Loved and remembered always. Love endures. Joan and family.

VAN LOO - Margot (née Poole), a much-loved and loving wife, mother, and grandmother, died 23rd March, 1992. She is sorely missed and is ever in our thoughts.

WILLIAM MORRIS - Poet, craftsman, socialist. Born 24 March 1834. Drink a glass to the memory.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

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NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

COWDREY, STEPHEN WILLIAM late of Flat Lower Garden, 17 Bartholomew Road, London NW5 2AH (Unemployed). Died 6th August 1995. Particulars to Edmondson Hall, 168 High Street, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 9AJ. Executor: Jacqueline Kebbell before 31st May 1996.

HAYWARD, FREDERICK HARRY of PATERNOSTER HOUSE, PATERNOSTER HILL, WALTHAM ABBEY, ESSEX died on 28TH FEBRUARY 1996 particulars to FOSKETT MARR GADSBY & HEAD Solicitors of 181 HIGH STREET, EPPING, ESSEX CM16 4BQ before 24TH MAY 1996.

HILL, EDGAR SIDNEY of 58 Templecombe Way, Morden, Surrey SM4 4JF died on 30th December 1995. Particulars to D.B. Morris & Co. Solicitor of 25 Golden Square, London W1R 3PA before 31st May 1996.

TRUSTEE ACTS

HILL, PATRICIA GLADYS of 58 Templecombe Way, Morden, Surrey SM4 4JF died on 14th October 1995. Particulars to D.B. Morris & Co. Solicitor of 25 Golden Square, London W1R 3PA before 31st May 1996.

LANDSBERG, MRS PATRICIA BEATRICE ANN of Lovelocks Cottage, Hungerford New Town, Berkshire RG17 0PY died on 18th January 1996. Particulars to Underwood & Co. Solicitors of 40 Welbeck Street, London W1M 8LN before 24th May 1996.

MAY HAWKINS. Died 30th November 1995, late of Franklin House 61 Shaw Way, Roundshaw Wallington and formerly of 102 Queens Road, Feltham, Middlesex. Executors Mackrell Turner Garrett Ibex House 61/65 Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8AH before 7th June 1996.

NIGHTINGALE Jeanie (otherwise Jean) late of Clarence Nursing Home, 3/4 Clarence Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1HD Retired School Teacher died 19 December 1995. Particulars to Crockers, 10 Gough Square, London EC4A 3NJ before 28th May 1996.

PROSSER RICHARD DEANE Late of 16 Elaine Court, 123 Haverstock Hill, London NW3. Died 12th February 1996. Particulars to Nicholson Graham & Jones 25/31 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6AR by 24th May 1996.

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SHAW, TREVOR MELVIN of 2 Gilpin Avenue, East Sheen, London, SW14 died on 13th February 1996. Particulars to Sarjeant & Sheppard, Solicitors of 150 Friar Street, Reading, RG1 1HE, before 7th June, 1996.

THOMAS TREFLYN LLEWELYN of 21 Starlings Drive, Tilehurst, Reading. Died on 12th November 1995. Particulars to Sarjeant & Sheppard Solicitors of 150 Friar Street, Reading RG1 1HE before 31st May 1996.

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THOMAS ENDERS

Thomas Enders, US diplomat and banker, died of melanoma in New York on March 17 aged 64. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on November 28, 1931.

THOUGH brusque in character, Tom Enders succeeded in pursuing an adroit career as a diplomat, much of it accentuated by Cold War intrigues in tropical climes. He played an important role in the secret bombing of Cambodia during the Nixon Administration and later, as Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs, he found himself dealing with the aftermath of the first Opec oil crisis. In the most controversial period of his diplomatic career he was Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs, guiding the Reagan Administration's policy in Central America. He also served as Ambassador to Canada and Spain.

Enders, as one of his colleagues once put it, "had the exterior of a very cold, difficult kind of person. But what was behind it was a very impressive intelligence and strength of character." He remained aloofly self-composed even when embroiled in the most complex political situations.

After retiring from the American Foreign Service, Enders embarked upon a second career in the world of finance. As a managing director of Salomon Brothers he became head of its New York international corporate finance group. He built on his extensive experience in Latin America, recognising early on the growth potential of emerging markets in the aftermath of the 1983 debt crisis. At Salomon Brothers he played a major role in the return of borrowers in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico to the international financial markets, and created financial structures for this purpose.

His efforts led to Salomon Brothers representing entities in the region in numerous strategic assignments. These included advising the Mexican Government in the restructuring of the financial sector; the first SEC-registered equity issue by a Chilean company in recent history; participation in privatisations of the telecommunications sector; and representing Latin American interests in their US acquisitions.

Thomas Ostrom Enders demonstrated great promise at an early age. His was one of the most distinguished academic records ever achieved at Yale. He graduated in 1953 summa cum laude, first of his class, and went on to obtain a Masters in History at the University of Paris (1955) and in Economics at Harvard (1957).

Enders entered the Foreign Service of the United States in 1958. Within a decade he had become deputy assistant secretary for international monetary affairs. In 1970 he won the Arthur S. Fleming Award as one of the ten outstanding young individuals in the federal Government.

In 1971 the Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, selected Enders for assignment in Cambodia where he served as chief of mission for three war-torn years. Here Enders played a vital role in American efforts to bolster the Saigon Government during the withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam. He was placed in charge of a committee that reviewed requests by the Government of Prime Minister Lon Nol for clandestine American bombing raids over Cambodian territories occupied by North Vietnamese forces. His was something of a precarious position. Not only was he the target of three assassination attempts — on one occasion the car he had been riding in was entirely destroyed — but he also aroused the anger of certain congressmen. He was accused of misleading two representatives of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who had visited Phnom Penh to investigate whether American air strikes were sometimes overstepping congressional restrictions.

Kissinger, however, promoted Enders and in 1974 he returned to the State Department as Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs. He supervised American participation in the Group of Seven response to the aftermath of the first Opec oil crisis. Under his leadership the International Energy Agency was created under the auspices of the OECD.

In 1976 Enders became Ambassador to Canada. He travelled across the country forging a new quality of bilateral relationship with America's largest trading partner. He played a central role in surmounting the delicate political and commercial barriers to an agreement on the construction of a new pipeline to carry natural gas from Canada to American markets.

From 1979 to 1981 Enders was Ambassador to the European Community in Brussels, where he worked on reducing trade barriers as well as other economic policy issues.

At the behest of the Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, Enders became Assistant Secretary of State of Inter-American Affairs at a time of strong and conflicting emotions concerning US foreign policy. Enders sought to be a balancing force while addressing a progressive agenda, but he was seen as something of a hardliner when he defended the El Salvadorean Government during a wave of death-squad killings and army massacres. However, he believed that the resolution of economic problems would bring political stability in its wake, and he worked to promote economic reforms and export development programmes.

Somewhat disproving his earlier critics, he also pressed for negotiations with left-wing groups in both El Salavador and Nicaragua. His support of free elections and the development of democratic institutions led to elections in El Salvador in 1982. In Nicaragua he supported a two-track policy of maintaining military pressure on the Sandinista Government through the Contras while initiating negotiations between the two sides.

From 1983 to 1986, Enders was Ambassador to Spain. He worked on building popular and governmental support to keep Spain in Nato, and also led successful negotiations for the maintenance of American military bases at reduced strength. During this period he wrote a book, *Latin America: The Crisis of Debt and Growth*. In 1986 he retired from the Foreign Service and joined Salomon Brothers

A man of imposing stature, Enders enjoyed mountaineering. He climbed extensively in the Canadian Rockies and the Alps, and walked throughout France and Spain, locating the old Roman and pilgrimage trails. He also collected rare books on travel and exploration, and early maps chronicling the discovery of the Americas.

He is survived by his Italian wife Gaetana, whom he married in 1951, and by three daughters and a son.

LORD AIREDALE

Oliver James Vandeleur Kitson, 4th Baron Airedale and a Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, died on March 19 aged 80. He was born on April 22, 1915.

LORD AIREDALE served as a Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords for more than thirty years, breaking previous records of service in that office. He was a Liberal peer and a familiar figure in the chamber, noted for his lack of sartorial elegance — his clothes, too, certainly breaking records of long service. He loved the Lords, attending the sessions with commendable regularity and treating the House as his home-from-home. By way of contrast he also claimed the record for the shortest speech in the history of the House when, in July 1965, he rose simply to announce that he had nothing to say.

The Airedales were a Yorkshire family with a propensity for breeding females. Their progenitor was James Kitson, Mayor of Leeds, 1860-62, whose son became the 1st Baron in 1907, having served as MP for Colne Valley, Yorkshire, from 1892 to 1907. He died in Paris in 1911, leaving a million pounds. The 2nd Baron produced seven daughters and was succeeded in the title by his half-brother, a director of the Ford motor company and the Bank of England. His son was Oliver, the 4th Baron.

Oliver Kitson's mother was from the Irish family of Vandeleurs, in Co Clare, and he added their name to his own as an additional Christian name. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, and became a barrister at the Inner Temple in 1941. He served during the war as a major in The Green Howards. In 1958 he succeeded his father as 4th Baron and three years later he was selected as a Deputy Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords and the following year as a Deputy Speaker.

Airedale was a public-spirited man, who engaged in numerous public issues, many on behalf of the private individual and consumer. In 1959 in a letter to *The Times* he urged banks to keep their doors open longer in order to disperse the queues that formed in the lunch hour. This was only achieved many years later. In 1965 he advocated that health warnings be placed on cigarette packets rather than posters "as it reaches the people who need most to be warned at no cost to the taxpayer".

In 1967 there was a prolonged drama at his country seat when planners observed that he had built a gate in the wall of his rambling mansion, Ufford Hall, near Stamford. He did so because the wall fell down and he was aware of the potential hazards since his cousin's child had been killed by falling masonry. The council objected to his gate, but he was allowed to keep it on condition that it was fixed closed and could therefore be deemed a wall. Airedale commented: "A lot of damned nonsense."

Later he engaged in a long feud with the rural council over what it claimed was the non-payment of £61 legal expenses. He stood his ground and, being well versed in the law, he won the day, despite numerous visits from the local constabulary.

Among the other issues Airedale tackled was an attack on commercial radio, which he believed produced more bad music than good, and programmes "dealing with horror and sensationalism". He also involved himself in the decimal currency debate; succeeded in changing the name of the Consumer Protection Bill to the Trade Descriptions Act; and tightened the legislation concerning misleading advertising by suppliers. A keen animal and bird lover, he took special pride in winning a battle to prevent police from searching the premises of suspected egg thieves without a warrant from a magistrate. For recreation he enjoyed making elderberry champagne which he served to his guests in Lincolnshire.

On account of the number of females in the Kitson family and the corresponding lack of males, there is no heir to the barony. Lord Airedale remained a lifelong bachelor.

DANIEL CUNNINGHAM

Daniel Cunningham, physiologist, died on February 26 aged 76. He was born on October 21, 1919.

AN EMINENT physiologist, Dan Cunningham made important contributions to the understanding of the regulation of breathing in man. He was also a respected Oxford medical tutor, patient with the average undergraduate and exceptionally stimulating to those of particular talent.

Daniel John Chapman Cunningham was born in India, the son of a doctor in the Indian Medical Service. From the age of 10 he attended Loretto School, and in 1938 he won an exhibition to Worcester College, Oxford. At the end of his second year, having won the university prizes in both physiology and anatomy, he went to Edinburgh to study at the Medical School. An abbreviated clinical course allowed him to join the RAMC in 1943, and he spent the next two years attached to the 3rd Parachute Brigade in North-west Europe. When the war ended Cunningham was moved to Germany where he had the opportunity to study the nutritional status of several thousand civilians. Among them he recorded hundreds of cases of hunger oedema and, through meticulously noted observations, he showed that the previous textbook description of this condition was erroneous.

He returned to Oxford in October 1946 for the third year of a degree course in animal physiology. Even before he had taken his final examination he had been elected Radcliffe Medical Fellow of University College, where he remained until his retirement.

Appointed a departmental demonstrator — he was promoted to university lecturer five years later — he began the series of experiments that clarified many aspects of the control of breathing. Over the years his laboratory flourished, and he enjoyed close and fruitful collaborations with many colleagues, particularly Dr B. B. Lloyd and later Dr E. S. Petersen. Moreover, the breadth of his interests enabled him also to make significant contributions to medical science in the fields of circulatory and metabolic physiology.

Cunningham's great success as a human physiologist was attributable to three factors. First he was subtle in experimental design and inventive in the construction of new apparatus. The treadmill that enabled him to study respiration during exercise became famous, and he modified and improved the essential analyser for carbon dioxide. Secondly, he appreciated earlier than most other physiologists the value of the quantitative approach and of mathematical models that both describe existing data and allow predictions to be made (and tested) for new experimental conditions. Thirdly, he benefited greatly from an intellectual give-and-take both with colleagues investigating lower animals and with clinicians who were studying specific impairments in patients.

However, since Cunningham abhorred self-advertisement, he gained less recognition in Oxford than was perhaps his due (although he turned down chairs elsewhere). In addition, the astonishing advances in neurophysiology of the past few decades have tended to overshadow other areas of physiology.

But if he felt disappointment at not being made a Reader, he never showed it. Considerate and reticent, he kept all his feelings to himself; only those close to him were aware of his great warmth, or of the intensity of his emotions, expressed for example in his response to music and in his deep compassion for others.

Cunningham married Judy Hill, a professional violinist, in 1947. She survives him, together with their son and daughter.

HER HIGHNESS LADY VICTORIA OPOKU-WARE II

Her Highness Lady Victoria Opoku-Ware II, First Lady of Ashanti, died of cancer on March 6 aged 66. She was born in Kumasi, Ghana, on April 22, 1929.

IN ASHANTI history, no female consort of the king has ever played so prominent a role as Victoria Opoku-Ware. Diplomatic, but demanding in character, she was described as one of the most powerful people in the Ashanti kingdom.

The ancient kingdom of Ashanti is now an administrative region of the modern republic of Ghana. But although its ruler, the Asantahene, wields no executive power he continues to maintain a court and oversee his people's strongly traditional tribal structures. The king customarily contracts a number of dynastic marriages. However, Victoria Opoku-Ware remained, uniquely, her husband's sole consort. She played a pivotal role throughout the difficult years of modernising the monarchy in a country dominated by the tension between the traditional Ashanti polity and the modern state, and in doing so she shaped a new and stronger role for the first lady of Ashanti.

Victoria Nana Akua Afiiriyie Bando was groomed for her position from an early age. Born in the Ashanti capital Kumasi, into one of the most prominent families in the kingdom, she was betrothed at the age of just 13 to Matthew Poku, a nephew of the King, Sir Osei Agyeman-Prempeh II, who had ruled the kingdom of Ashanti for forty years. In 1945, a short while after she had completed her education at Wesley Girls High School, Cape Coast, she was married with full royal honours.

In Ashanti culture the monarchy is not handed down by primogeniture. It is said that it was to a great extent because of the advocacy of Lady Victoria that in 1970 her husband came to the throne — the Ashanti golden stool. From then on she played a powerful part. In the matriarchal Ashanti culture, she was in the vanguard in harnessing and propagating the strengths of Ashanti women and in championing equal rights.

Perhaps her most important role, however, was that of intercessor. Heads of state sought her guidance, advice and support before making overtures to the King. She was also an important ambassador for her people, accompanying the King on overseas visits — including one to Britain in 1971 when they were received at Buckingham Palace — and entertaining in Kumasi foreign statesmen including President Nixon and President Bush.

Lady Victoria was a convinced Christian. It was under her auspices that Robert Runcie, then Archbishop of Canterbury, first met Pope John Paul II. This was to lead to the Pope's historic visit to Canterbury in 1982.

In 1995, despite her failing health, she carried on her duties with aplomb and a dedication to duty which culminated in the silver jubilee of her husband the King. In a kaleidoscopic celebration, hundreds of chieftains swathed in traditional kenti robes and weighed down by golden jewellery came with horn-blowing entourages to pay their respects to one of the longest-serving monarchs on the African continent.

She is survived by her husband, King Opoku-Ware II, and by her son Akempimhene of Kumasi, who within the court is head of the King's Cabinet. She is also survived by her two daughters.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUR WILL
If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country.
Enquiries to
The Chairman, British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, c/o Midland Bank plc, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A.

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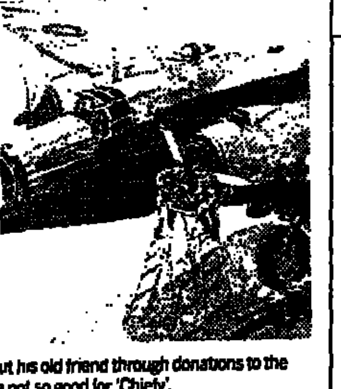


Dusty Miller is a friend in need

Dusty Miller and 'Chiefy' Brooks were engine fitters on Wellingtons during the last War. Great mates then, Dusty still helps out his old friend through donations to the Fund now that times are not so good for 'Chiefy'.

You can ensure we are always there to help the whole RAF family, aircrew, ground staff, serving as well as ex-RAF, their spouses and dependant children by making a donation now and remembering us in your Will.

To: The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, PO Box 2940, Fairford, Gloucestershire, GL7 4NA. Tel: 0171-580 8343. Ext. 275

NAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

ON THIS DAY

March 23, 1970

"Something so bad is bound to come back," reflected Leonard Buckley gloomily as he watched the Eurovision Song Contest.

BOUND TO COME BACK

By Leonard Buckley

BBC1

Eurovision Song Contest

Knock, knock. Who was there? I was. And if you are half the patriot you should be, you were there too, watching and rooting for Britain. The Greeks had their festival of Dionysus. The druids had Stonehenge. We have the Eurovision Song Contest and Saturday's audience in 25 countries, was estimated at 399,999,999 and me. I, of course, had been glued to the television set since the early evening, ready with my ball-point poised over the score chart in the *Radio Times*. ("After all the songs, the 12 juries will consider their verdicts. Each country has ten marks. Enter the votes in the vertical columns — then add them up to find the winner. In the far left column award *your* marks — and choose your own winner.") If it transpired that I had picked up the wrong copy and was marking a plan of last year's Boat Race, well, these things can happen when you are excited.

Mary Hopkin kept her head for Britain. She looked fetching in a gown of sparkling black, and when her thin little song invited us to take off our coats and come inside I thought we were home and dry. In the event, however, she came second, well beaten by Dana (Rosemary Brown) for Ireland who sang a song entitled: "All Kinds of Everything", which I personally thought no sort of nothing. But all 12 entries were undistinguished. I doubt if a more indifferent group of songs has ever been heard at one and the same time since the junior composers' competition at the Paignton Musical Festival in 1923.

The camera, however, got above itself this year. We were taken on a tour of Amsterdam before we swept into the concert hall, and we also saw the contestants in their habitats. I liked the glimpse we had of the Frenchman chasing a girl round a tree near the Eiffel Tower. Colour, too, added its surprises. The young man from Spain wore a sky blue suit, while his backing group were in shocking pink. The voting, drawn in from the capitals of Eurpoe, went off with fewer hitches than usual, though I felt that the B.B.C. might have let Bob McKenzie or one of its other psephologists give us some quick comments on the swing. One thing puzzled me. The stage motif was all spheres and scimitars. Though this was Holland I was reminded somehow of the Japanese Samurai. Perhaps that was why I kept thinking of hara kiri.

There are doubts about the future of this contest. But something so bad is bound to come back. Indeed, with the Iron Curtain countries now watching we could even have an entry from Russia. Which brings a warning. Mary Hopkin for all her sweetness seemed at only three-quarter power. For this affair you need a song with a beat and you need to belt it out. So if one of those young ladies from the steppes does ever come forward to thud out a ditty whom could we possibly put up to oppose her? I can only think of Mr. Clive Jenkins.

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY MARCH 23 1996

NEWS

British beef industry faces ruin

■ The beef industry stared ruin in the face as the world boycott of British meat and cattle spread and the European Commission declared unilateral bans by nine EU countries legal.

As prices continued to plummet at cattle markets, the Consumers' Association gave the starkest warning yet to people to stop eating beef products.............................. Pages 6, 7, 22, 23

Nadir thwarted by aide's conviction

■ Asil Nadir former head of Polly Peck International, had his hopes of a triumphal return to Britain from his home in northern Cyprus dashed yesterday when his former aide was convicted at London's central criminal court of handling nearly £400,000 in stolen funds.. Pages 1, 4

Doctor struck off

A general practitioner who used unaware patients as guinea pigs in drugs trials was ordered to be struck off........................Pages 1, 3

IRA rejects poll plan

The IRA dashed hopes of an imminent ceasefire by rejecting John Major's Ulster poll plans as "unacceptable"..................... Page 2

Morris to retire

Alf Morris, one of the leading postwar campaigning MPs, announced he is retiring from Parliament at the next general election................................ Page 8

Dunblane return

Dunblane children went back to their primary school, 10 days after the killing of 16 pupils and a teacher .... Page 5

Hidden treasure

A massive 1720s line drawing has been found under a Kensington Palace ceiling canvas .... Page 9

Bootiful weekends

Car boot sales, where haggling is the order of the day, attract more than a million people every weekend...................... Pages 11, 23

Muslims murdered

A UN officer says at least 3,000 Muslims were murdered by the Bosnian Serb Army after Srebrenica's fall ....Page 12

Chinese checked

The presence of US aircraft carrier groups has complicated Peking's calculations ....Page 13

Mandela peace call

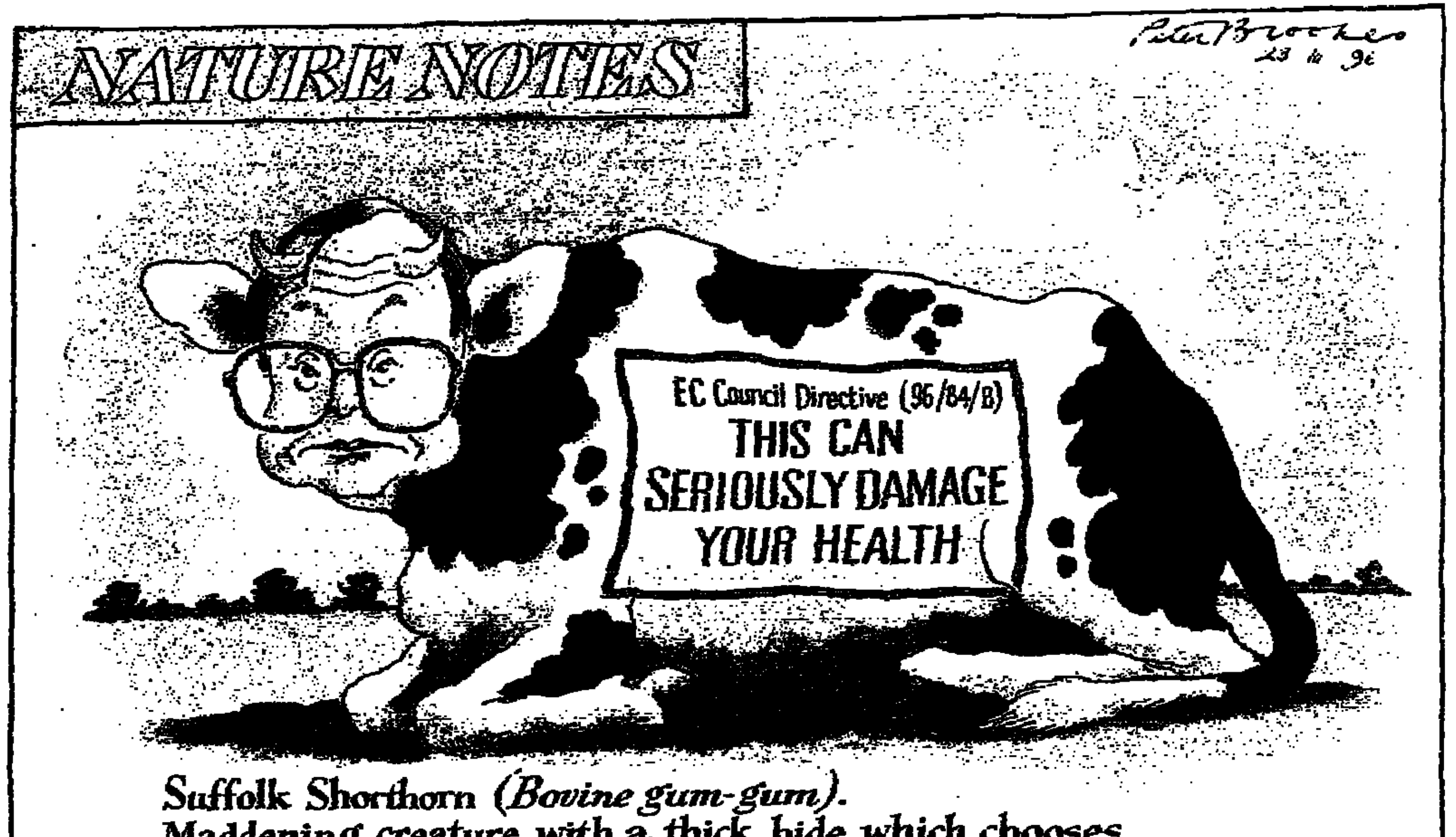
President Mandela called for a new strategy against political violence after 11 people were killed in KwaZulu/Natal................. Page 16

Oscars protest

Jesse Jackson plans demonstrations in US cities during Monday's Oscars ceremony broadcast. Only one of 166 Academy Award nominees is black......................Page 17

Nigerian villagers commit a howler

■ British ornithologist Philip Hall, on the trail of one of the world's rarest owls, entered a Nigerian village where the Rufous Fishing Owlbird had been sighted. But villagers had killed it the night before — and eaten it that morning......................... Page 1


NATURE NOTES
Peter Brookes 23/3/96
EC Council Directive (96/84/B)
THIS CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

Suffolk Shorthorn (Bovine gum-gum).
Maddening creature with a thick hide which chooses to feed its young in public. Will probably be slaughtered with the whole herd at a General Election.

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Out on her own: Joanna Pitman meets Benazir Bhutto.................... Page 8
Provençal life: Behind the kitchen doors....... Page 48

WEEKEND

Being alone: Single life is wonderful.........Pages 1, 3

Offers: Children go free at Alton Towers......... Page 9
Outdoors: Walk your way to health................Page 15

10 15

Win: a £480 mountain bike........................Page 3
Our Oscars: vote in *10 15* Film Awards......... Page 5

VISION

Beauty boys: Mr UK up close in *Modern Times*, Wednesday, BBC2, 9pm
Film: *Raising Arizona*, Monday, C4, 10pm

OPINION

Poor John Bull: Beef has enjoyed a privileged place on the Englishman's table. Tomorrow's Sunday lunch will be a melancholy mealtime as Britons recognise it will never be glad, confident, carving again .... Page 23

Superior women: Sometimes it takes a survey to discover a truth. Women have made great strides in the past few decades .... Page 23

LETTERS

Steps to increase child protection; "placepersons" and the Conservatives........... Page 23

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The Family Law Bill has brought out an unattractive streak in the Tory party — punitive moral interventionism........ Page 22

Oliver Walston: I find myself trying to remember how many Cornish pasties I ate in 1986 .... Page 22

OBITUARIES

Thomas Enders, US diplomat and banker; **Lord Airedale**, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords; **Her Highness Lady Victoria Opoku-Ware II**, First Lady of Ashanti .... Page 25

BUSINESS

BCCI fees: BCCI liquidators may lose 40 per cent of their £10 million fees .... Page 27

National Westminster: Directors had salaries frozen last year, but most enjoyed pay increases.................... Page 27

Subsidence fears: Renewed subsidence fears are blighting more and more houses......................... Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 8.7 to 3,707.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.0 to 83.9 after a dip from $1.5372 to $1.5348 and from DM2.2697 to DM2.2646................Page 30

ARTS

Top man: "There is clearly a deplorable shortage of Gummers to fill top jobs," says Richard Morrison, on hearing Peter Gummer, brother of Environment Secretary John, is the next Royal Opera House chairman...... Page 19

Bowing out: After 35 years, Sir David Willcocks, 76, has announced his retirement from conducting the Bach Choir .... Page 21

CAR 96

Classical education: Britain's national passion is a £1 billion a year industry

SPORT

Cricket: A day after he was formally confirmed as a candidate to be chairman of selectors, David Graveney withdrew his nomination.......... Page 52

Athletics: Diane Modahl may get full international clearance of a doping offence in the next three days from the International Federation .... Page 52

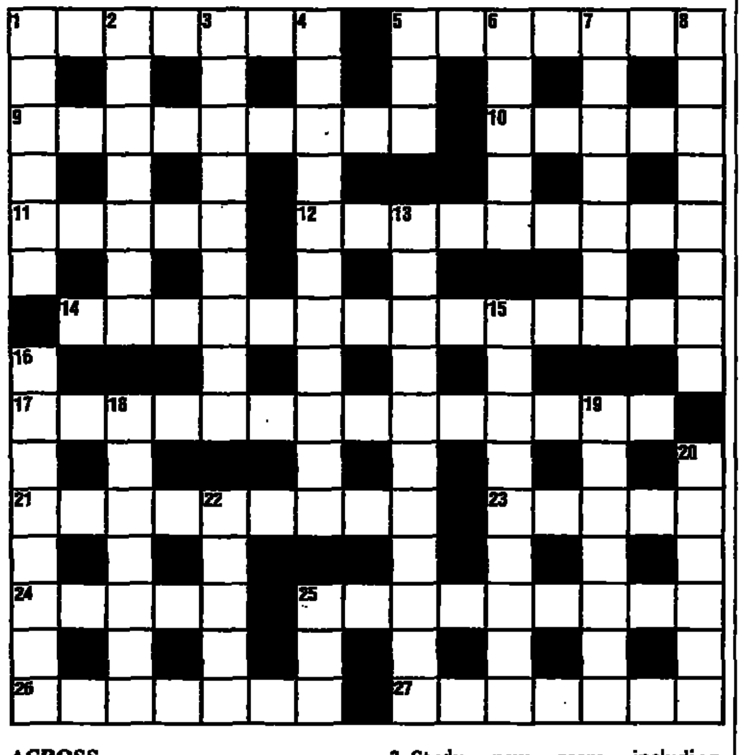
Racing: Fame Again, backed from 25-1 to 12-1 yesterday, can land the gamble in the William Hill Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster .... Page 48

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,123

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



ACROSS

1 Part of normal achievement for bookmaker (7).
5 Harbour unsuitable for old vessels, according to Matthew? (7).
9 Record entrant moving right to the front? Sorry! (9).
10 Name on jacket? Right (5).
11 American people love a guru (5).
12 Person anxious to get on vehicle I steer badly (9).
14 Soccer players in hospital? (6,8).
17 How chess players regard each other, in general (6,3,5).
21 His, perhaps? (9).
23 Rated intelligence about military group, one from Arab country (5).
24 Tether that is restricting ram? Just the opposite (3,2).
25 Muscular type taking prize at US gathering (9).
26 Part of army, exhausted, withdrew (7).
27 Record English service in see (7).

DOWN

1 Girl making a minor error (6).
2 Mathematician seen in the square in his home town (7).
3 Study new score including Tchaikovsky's first musical pieces (9).
4 He appreciated the gravity of the situation in the garden (5,6).
5 Head teachers' organisation (3).
6 Rustic band accompanying last part of dance (5).
7 Anomalous individual left one in remote situation (7).
8 It's a tree prepared for writer's study (8).
13 Pen, possibly, holds a Red in this state (5,6).
15 Banquets in courts characteristic of a good deal? (9).
16 Most effective medicine stops onset of fatal attack (8).
18 Stagger with shock treatment, and return to seat (2-5).
19 Get ready for serial broadcast to East (7).
20 Will soon get repetitions eliminated for the President (6).
22 Turn up to change position of plant that's lush (5).
25 Bit of America that Amerigo discovered initially (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,117

```
EPHEBE ABSINTHE
A A A F U V I R
REGALIA TOASTER
T G D I T N A O
HEADHUNTER KNAR
L R E   R P I  
INDRAWN CORNCOB
N   D E U O   E
GUNNERA PONIARD
  A D R   O S S
SAVE STIRRUPCUP
T A B H E N E R
ISRAELI NECKTIE
F I T N O E I A
FANDANGO EDUCED
```

Solution to Puzzle No 20,122

```
NIGHTCAP PREFAB
O E E L S I R E
VITALSTATISTICS
I T S A I O L O
CRITTER NOTELET
E N A   G T   T
 AGARAGAR OZONE
F O   L A   R D
RANCH OLYMPIAN 
E   A R   A N A
SATISFY PARAGON
H U B I R T U N
MARIEANTOINETTE
A P E G W E A X
NOSING CLARENCE
```

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: D Belton, Chesham, Buckinghamshire; B Cole, Wellingore, Lincoln; G D T Prime, Much Birch, Hereford; B J & P A Duesbury, Barton-in-Fabis, Nottingham; R A Gould, Braintree, Essex.

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 5.56 am — Sun sets: 6.19 pm
Moon sets 11.11 pm — Moon rises 7.55 am

First quarter March 27

London 6.19 pm to 5.54 am
Bristol 6.29 pm to 6.04 am
Edinburgh 6.33 pm to 6.04 am
Manchester 6.28 pm to 6.01 am
Penzance 6.40 pm to 6.16 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 5.54 am — Sun sets: 6.21 pm
Moon sets - — Moon rises 8.32 am

First quarter March 27

London 6.21 pm to 5.52 am
Bristol 6.31 pm to 6.01 am
Edinburgh 6.35 pm to 6.01 am
Manchester 6.30 pm to 5.59 am
Penzance 6.42 pm to 6.14 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.02	7.4	4.26	7.2
Aberdeen	3.33	4.1	3.48	4.2
Avonmouth	9.36	13.3	9.48	13.0
Belfast	1.30	3.5	1.54	3.5
Cardiff	9.30	12.0	9.43	11.5
Devonport	8.13	5.4	8.20	5.2
Dover	1.15	6.9	1.34	6.6
Dublin (N Wall)	1.40	3.8	2.04	3.9
Falmouth	7.41	5.1	8.01	4.8
Greenock	2.45	3.5	3.10	3.6
Harwich	1.54	4.0	2.19	3.9
Holyhead	0.24	5.5	12.46	5.5
Hull (Albert D)	8.36	7.2	8.53	7.4
Ilfracombe	8.25	9.3	8.38	9.0
King's Lynn	8.37	6.6	8.56	6.5
Leith	4.57	5.4	5.19	5.4
Liverpool	1.22	9.3	1.43	9.3
Lowestoft	11.54	2.2	-	-
Margate	2.19	4.9	2.42	4.7
Milford Haven	8.38	6.9	8.52	6.7
Newquay	7.24	6.7	7.42	6.4
Oban	7.54	3.8	8.00	3.7
Penzance	6.59	5.5	7.16	5.3
Portland	9.09	2.0	9.20	1.9
Portsmouth	1.36	4.8	1.57	4.8
Shoreham	1.34	6.4	1.53	6.2
Southampton	0.57	4.5	1.11	4.4
Swansea	8.46	9.5	8.58	9.2
Tees	6.02	5.2	6.18	5.3
Walton-on-Naze	1.52	4.3	2.16	4.2

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Salcombe, Devon, 0.56in; highest sunshine: Aviemore, Highland, 6.8hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** most places in England and Wales will have a dull cloudy start with outbreaks of rain in all but the south. Rain will persist in the north, becoming lighter, while brighter or sunny conditions are expected to spread east over much of the south.

North Scotland will be bright with showers. Other areas of Scotland and Northern Ireland will start cloudy with some rain but should brighten from the north as the rain area shrinks and the rain peters out.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England:** cloudy, rain or drizzle clearing. Bright with sunny intervals developing during morning. Winds light southerly. Warm. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales:** dull start then brightening during morning, perhaps sunny intervals in afternoon. Winds light southerly. Warm. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **E England, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England:** cloudy, rain or drizzle, becoming more patchy. Winds light southerly. Cool. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** overcast with rain or drizzle at times, sleet or snow on hills. Brighter weather spreading from north during the day. Winds light easterly. Cool. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** clear or sunny intervals and occasional light drizzly showers. Winds light easterly. Cool. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** becoming brighter and mainly dry.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

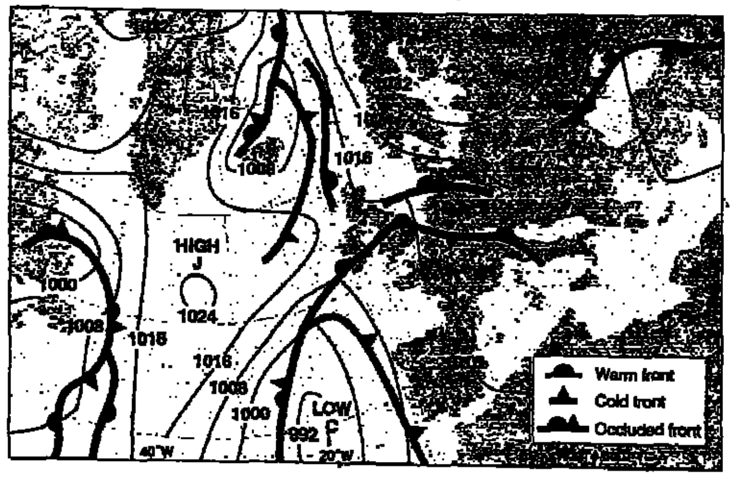
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	-	4	39	c
Anglesey	-	-	9	48	d
Aspatria	0.1	-	6	43	c
Aviemore	6.8	-	7	45	s
Belfast	-	-	5	41	d
Birmingham	-	0.01	7	45	r
Bognor R	-	0.31	9	48	r
Bournem'th	-	0.30	8	46	r
Bristol	-	0.16	9	48	r
Buxton	-	0.04	6	43	fg
Cardiff	-	0.19	8	46	r
Clacton	0.9	0.05	8	46	c
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	-	0.02	9	48	c
Cromer	-	-	6	43	fg
Doncaster	X				
Eastbourne	X				
Edinburgh	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	-	2	36	sn
Exmouth	-	0.29	7	45	r
Falmouth	-	0.50	11	52	c
Fishguard	-	0.02	8	46	r
Folkestone	-	0.15	9	48	r
Glasgow	-	-	4	39	r
Guernsey	-	0.28	13	55	r
Hastings	-	0.22	9	48	r
Hayling I.	-	0.24	8	46	r
Herne Bay	0.6	0.05	10	50	r
Hove	0.7	0.10	8	46	r
Hunstanton	-	-	7	45	fg
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	-	0.01	6	43	c
Jersey	0.1	0.25	12	54	r
Leeds	-	0.06	4	39	d
Lerwick	1.1	0.01	5	41	h
Littlehmptn	-	0.32	9	48	r
Liverpool	-	-	7	45	du
London	-	0.10	10	50	r
Lowestoft	-	0.04	6	43	fg
Manchester	-	-	8	46	du
Margate	-	0.09	10	50	r
Minehead	-	0.45	9	48	r
Morecambe	-	-	7	45	du
Newcastle	-	0.03	3	37	d
Newquay	X				
Norwich	-	0.11	9	48	du
Nottingham	X				
Oxford	-	0.09	9	48	r
Penzance	-	0.55	13	55	r
Plymouth	X				
Poole	-	0.25	9	48	r
Prestatyn	X	-	7	45	du
Ross-o-wye	-	0.14	9	48	r
Ryde	X				
Salcombe	-	0.57	10	50	r
Sandown	-	0.31	8	46	r
Saunton Snd	-	0.44	8	46	r
Scarboro'	X				
Shanklin	-	X	X	X	r
Shrewsbury	-	0.07	6	43	du
Skegness	-	0.01	5	41	fg
Southend	1.3	0.16	9	48	r
Southport	0.4	-	7	45	d
Southsea	-	0.40	8	46	r
Stornoway	2.4	-	7	45	b
Swanage	-	0.31	8	46	r
Teignmouth	-	0.32	8	46	fg
Tiree	1.7	-	7	45	r
Torquay	-	0.39	9	48	r
Tynemouth	-	0.03	5	41	du
Ventnor	-	0.28	8	46	r
Weymouth	-	0.25	8	46	r

ABROAD

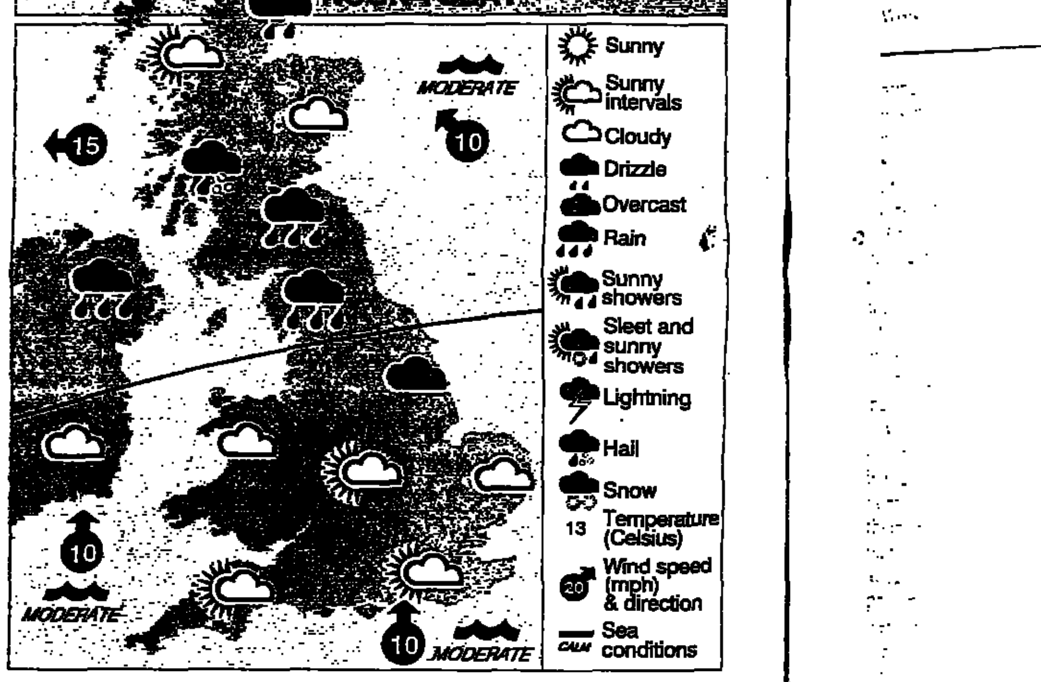
	C	F	
Ajaccio	15	59	s
Akrotiri	16	61	c
Alex'dria	19	66	f
Algiers	22	72	s
Amst'dm	10	50	r
Athens	13	55	c
B Aires	29	84	s
Bahrain	25	77	f
Bangkok	34	93	s
Barbados	29	84	f
Barcelona	17	63	f
Beirut	16	61	f
Belgrade	9	48	s
Berlin	6	43	s
Bermuda	20	68	c
Biarritz	18	64	s
Borde'x	18	64	f
Brussels	8	46	r
Budapest	8	46	s
Cairo	22	72	c
Cape Tn	23	73	s
Ch'church	X		
Chicago	1	34	s
Cologne	14	57	f
Corfu	13	55	f
C'phagn	4	39	f
Dublin	6	43	f
Dubrovnik	12	54	s
Faro	17	63	s
Florence	17	63	f
Frankfurt	12	54	f
Funchal	18	64	s
Geneva	13	55	f
Gibraltar	18	64	f
Helsinki	5	41	s
Hong K	19	66	c
Innsbrck	14	57	s
Istanbul	7	45	f
Jeddah	X		
Jo'burg	21	70	f
Karachi	X		
L Angels	18	64	c
L Palmas	20	68	f
Le Tquet	12	54	f
Lisbon	17	63	s
Luxembg	7	45	r
Luxor	27	81	s
Madrid	14	57	s
Majorca	19	68	s
Malaga	18	64	s
Malta	16	61	s
Melb'rne	16	61	c
Mexico C	17	63	s
Miami	17	63	f
Milan	13	55	c
Montreal	2	36	-
Moscow	3	37	s
Munich	10	50	f
N Delhi	27	81	s
N York	6	43	r
Nairobi	X		
Naples	16	61	f
Nice	15	59	f
Oslo	1	34	s
Paris	14	57	f
Peking	5	41	r
Perth	32	90	s
Prague	6	43	s
Reykjavik	3	37	r
Rhodes	16	61	s
Rio de J	25	77	f
Riyadh	28	82	s
Rome	15	59	s
S Fr'isco	14	57	s
S Paulo	22	72	d
Salzburg	9	48	f
Santiago	28	82	s
Seoul	6	43	r
Sing'por	29	84	r
St'kholm	-2	28	c
Strasb'rg	13	55	f
Sydney	21	70	s
Tangier	21	70	s
Tel Aviv	19	66	f
Tenerife	22	72	c
Tokyo	14	57	s
Toronto	-5	23	sn
Tunis	20	68	s
Valencia	19	66	f
Vanc'ver	7	45	r
Venice	11	52	s
Vienna	8	46	s
Warsaw	2	36	s
Wash'ton	8	46	f
Wel'ngton	X		
Zurich	11	52	x

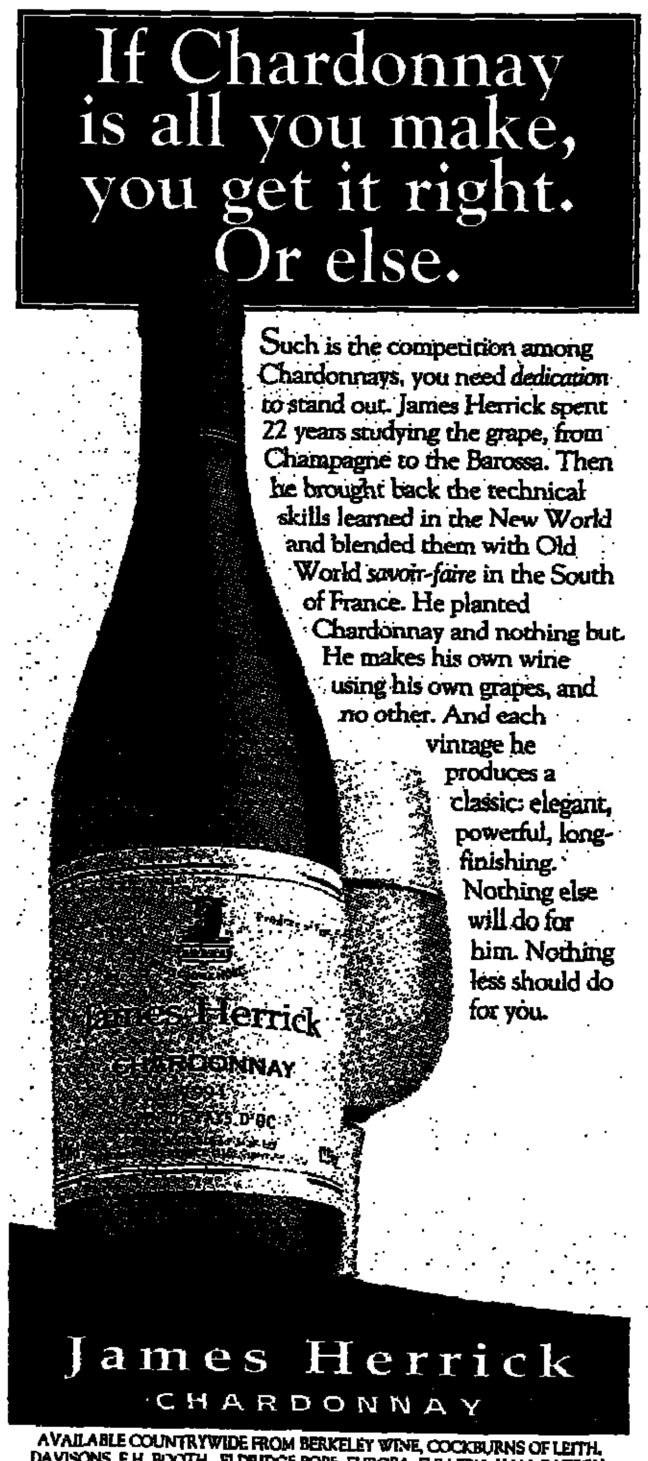
Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: high J will drift northwards to Iceland and build. Low C will remain to the west of Iberia and gradually fill

NOON TODAY




If Chardonnay is all you make, you get it right. Or else.

Such is the competition among Chardonnays, you need *dedication* to stand out. James Herrick spent 22 years studying the grape, from Champagne to the Barossa. Then he brought back the technical skills learned in the New World and blended them with Old World *savoir-faire* in the South of France. He planted Chardonnay and nothing but. He makes his own wine using his own grapes, and no other. And each vintage he produces a classic: elegant, powerful, long-finishing. Nothing else will do for him. Nothing less should do for you.

James Herrick
CHARDONNAY

AVAILABLE COUNTRYWIDE FROM BERKELEY WINE, COCKBURNS OF LEITH, DAVISONS, E H. BOOTH, ELDRIDGE POPE, EUROPA, FULLER'S, HALL BATSON, ODDBINS, RUSSELL CELLARS, SAINSBURY'S, SOMERFIELD, SPAR, THOS. PEATLING, UNWINS, VICTORIA WINE, WINE CELLAR.

مكبر من الاصل

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Tracking the Rentokil-BET bid battle

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Leeds pin hopes on McAllister's pass mastery

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY MARCH 23 1996

Subsidence blights housing recovery

By Sara McConnell

RENEWED fears of subsidence are blighting growing numbers of houses for sale as cautious valuers insist on additional engineers' reports for any visible cracks.

In most cases, cracks are not due to subsidence, but prospective buyers are refusing to spend hundreds of pounds on extra reports and are going elsewhere. Lenders will not advance mortgages unless satisfied with a valuation.

This is a blow for the housing market, just as it is starting to show signs of recovery after five years in the doldrums.

Insurers were forced to pay £326 million in subsidence claims in 1995, more than double the amount in the previous year. Norwich Union paid £18 million worth of claims for subsidence last summer, Commercial Union set aside an extra £26 million, and Legal & General paid out £23 million. They say that another hot summer will bring more subsidence misery for thousands of homeowners. London, the South East, the Midlands and Manchester are the worst affected.

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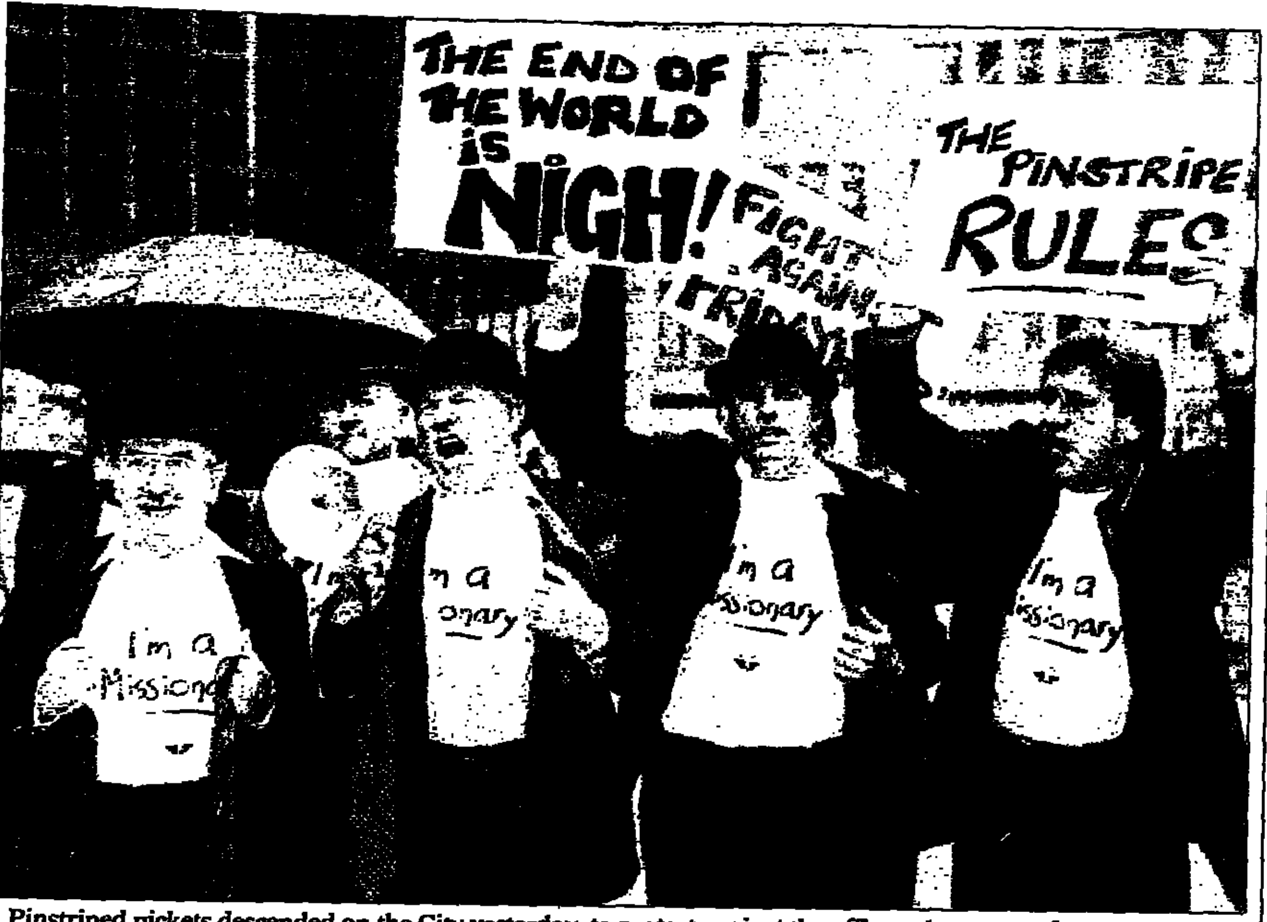
Brian Bundy, branch manager at C E Heath, said valuers were being much more cautious. "They see a crack and see possible subsidence. Ten years ago, they wouldn't have worried."

Valuers are anxious to cover their backs to avoid being sued by lenders or borrowers. A number of them are still fighting legal battles with lenders who allege they overvalued property as the market went into freefall in the early 1990s.

Geoff Holden, of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said: "If valuers see a crack they don't like, they would tell a buyer to take further advice [from a structural engineer]. When confronted with a crack, buyers will often pull out. The cost implications put a lot of people off."



Pinstriped pickets descended on the City yesterday, to protest against the office suit, as part of a campaign by by Levi Strauss, the casual wear company, in support of a ban on formal suits for at least one day each week

BCCI liquidators fight threat to fee

By Patricia Tehan, banking correspondent

THE liquidators of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International may lose 40 per cent of their £10 million Luxembourg fees, and future fees worldwide are threatened, after a panel of "experts" in Luxembourg told a court that their charges were too high.

In court yesterday, Deloitte & Touche, the liquidator, defended their fees, and, in a letter to the experts, the firm has described an expert report as "fundamentally misconceived, superficial and inadequate". BCCI collapsed in 1991 with estimated liabilities of $14 billion and still has a black hole of $10 billion.

The liquidators were particularly stung by the experts' attempts to force Brian Smouha, the Deloitte & Touche senior partner who coordinated the worldwide liquidation of the bank, to take lower fees than the experts have agreed for themselves.

In theory, the expert opinion is applied only to £2.5 million fees for work done in relation to Luxembourg-based BCCI SA by Deloitte & Touche in the six months after BCCI's collapse. This means a reduction of £1 million. However, the liquidators fear that if the Luxembourg court accepts the expert opinion, it could seek a similar reduction to subsequent fees of up to £10 million.

The total Deloitte & Touche fees so far are $300 million. Although most of this has been approved by UK and Cayman Island courts and creditors' committees, the liquidators fear that future fees could be affected. Fees are running at tens of millions of dollars a year. In the UK, where the bulk of liquidation fees are incurred, fees were $14 million last year.

Tony Houghton, a partner in Deloitte & Touche said: "We have taken this very seriously. They have suggested that we have over-charged, that the rates we have applied are not related to the work we have under taken. This is professionally damaging."

The experts were appointed by the Luxembourg court in 1993 in a standard procedure there to review the activities of liquidators in the provisional liquidation after the collapse of BCCI in July 1991 until January 1992. Even though the Luxembourg court had approved the Deloitte & Touche fees, the experts commented on the fees applied for by the liquidators.

The panel of experts is made up of Bernard Harder, a French accountant, a sole practitioner, Dr Christian Derpa, a German lawyer in a two-partner practice, and Jean Reuter, a Luxembourg accountant from a small firm.

They recommended that the liqudiators' fees be at the rate for a European audit. Mr Houghton said that they calculated a mixed bag of rates, looking at what they said were average rates for European firms, and came up with what they called "an average rate".

Mr Houghton said that Deloitte & Touche finally received a translation of the draft report from the experts early last year. In its response, it sought expert opinion from other firms that have done big insolvency investigations. KPMG and Coopers & Lybrand gave evidence in support of Deloitte & Touche, saying that insolvency rates are higher than audit to reflect the different nature of the assignment and the role of professionals in managing the future of a company in crisis. Both said that the Deloitte & Touche fees were less than they would have charged.

In a letter to the experts in January, John Connolly, Deloitte & Touche managing partner, said: "The experts did not even consider relevant insolvency rates nor indeed the evidence from independent experts." He said of the panel: "The expertise is of no value and should be ignored."

Success for $2.6bn Disney global bond

By Our Banking Correspondent

WALT DISNEY'S $2.6 billion global bond issue was snapped up by investors yesterday.

CS First Boston and Merrill Lynch, joint lead managers of the deal, had initially offered a $2 billion two-tranche global issue in five and ten-year tranches. However, strong demand for the prestigious Disney name prompted managers to raise the size of the offering.

Oversubscription for the global offering enabled managers to achieve a better price for the deal than many traders expected. It had been long-awaited as part of a package to finance the acquisition of Capital Cities in the US for $19 billion announced last August. There is still speculation that Disney may have to raise further debt to finance the $10 billion cash element of the acquisition.

The first tranche is for $1.3 billion, maturing March 27, 2001. It is to be priced at 35 basis points over Treasuries. The second tranche is also for $1.3 billion, maturing March 27, 2006. It is to be priced at 47 basis points over Treasuries. Traders had initially expected a $1.5 billion global offering with a spread of between 38-40 basis points over Treasuries for the first tranche and 50 basis points for the second.

According to reports last night, the five-year tranche had been most popular among European investors, while the ten-year tranche had appealed to US institutions.

Yesterday's deal is the first global bond issued by Disney. If it had not been split into two tranches, it would have been the largest corporate global bond ever. Further issues from Disney are expected. Analysts in New York last night said that following the acquisition Disney may still have to sell some assets to pay down debt.

The firm was nearly debt-free before the acquisition, but now carries $16 billion in goodwill and possibly as much as $21 billion in debt, according to one analyst.

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Anne Ashworth
on the building society payout tax

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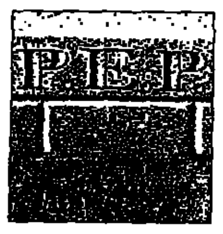
Part 4. Benefits of a company scheme

INVESTMENT



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Guaranteed Peps. The high price of security

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3707.0	(+8.7)
Yield	4.0%	
FT-SE A All share	1843.51	(+3.91)
Nikkei	20700.92	(-26.61)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5628.33	(+1.45)*
S&P Composite	649.75	(+0.56)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	91⅛*	(91⅜)
Yield	6.63%*	(6.62%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6⅛%	(6⅛%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	104⅞	(105⅛)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5335*	(1.5360)
London:		
$	1.5341	(1.5363)
DM	2.2651	(2.2898)
FFr	7.7740	(7.7870)
SFr	1.8319	(1.8364)
Yen	163.85	(163.82)
£ Index	83.9	(84.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4763*	(1.4800)
FFr	5.0665*	(5.0790)
SFr	1.1942*	(1.1975)
Yen	106.81*	(106.83)
$ Index	95.8	(95.7)

Tokyo close Yen 107.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$18.35	($17.90)

GOLD

London close	$397.50	($396.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Guinness in £460m buyback of shares

By Eric Reguly

GUINNESS yesterday paid £460.5 million to buy back 100 million shares but said the move would not affect its ability to make a significant acquisition. The deal, at Thursday's 450.5p closing price, was equivalent to 4.9 per cent of Guinness's share capital.

LVMH Moët Hennessy, the French drinks and luxury goods group which owns just under 20 per cent of Guinness, did not tender any of its shares. Its ownership, as a result, rises to 21 per cent. Charles Winston, an analyst with BZW, said the buyback would enchance current year earnings by about 1 per cent. It will increase debt from £1.2 billion to about £1.7 billion, taking gearing from 28 per cent to 46 per cent.

Tony Greener, chairman, said: "Guinness has enormous financial strength and can take more gearing. It [the buyback] does not inhibit us in any way from making acquisitions if they come along."

☐ Heavy turnover in Guinness helped stock market turnover surge to its best level this year of 1.1 billion shares.

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Glaxo Wellcome report shows £2.15m for Sykes

By Eric Reguly

SIR RICHARD SYKES, chief executive of Glaxo Wellcome, received £2.15 million in salary and other payments in the 18 months to the end of December, the annual report, published yesterday, revealed. The figures span an 18-month period because the group changed its year-end after Glaxo's £9.1 billion purchase in 1995 of Wellcome.

Of Sir Richard's total, £1.12 million was salary and £770,000 a one-off payment to terminate an old incentive scheme. He also received a £212,000 performance bonus and £41,000 of benefits. In the 12 months to the end of June 1994, total remuneration was £931,000. His base salary in the current year is £800,000 and he has 433,000 share options, whose average exercise price is 650p. The shares closed down 2p, at 817p.

The second highest paid executive director was Jeremy Strachan, responsible for legal and corporate affairs. In the 18-month period, total remuneration was £1.06 million, of which £514,000 was salary and £414,000 payment to terminate the old incentive scheme.

Bonuses lift NatWest directors' pay

By Our Banking Correspondent

NATWEST directors had their salaries frozen last year, but most enjoyed substantial increases to their total pay as a result of performance-related bonuses.

John Tugwell, the chairman and chief executive of Bancorp, NatWest's US subsidiary, saw his total pay fall from £1.46 million to £1.12 million, but the 1994 figure included payments made under a long-term incentive plan. He was the exception to the pay freeze; his salary increased by 3.6 per cent to £551,000. Mr Tugwell will leave the NatWest board later this year when he moves with Bancorp to its new owner, Fleet Financial.

Derek Wanless, NatWest's chief executive, was paid a salary of £350,000, but a performance-related bonus of £200,000 and other benefits gave him a total pay rise of 19 per cent to £594,000.

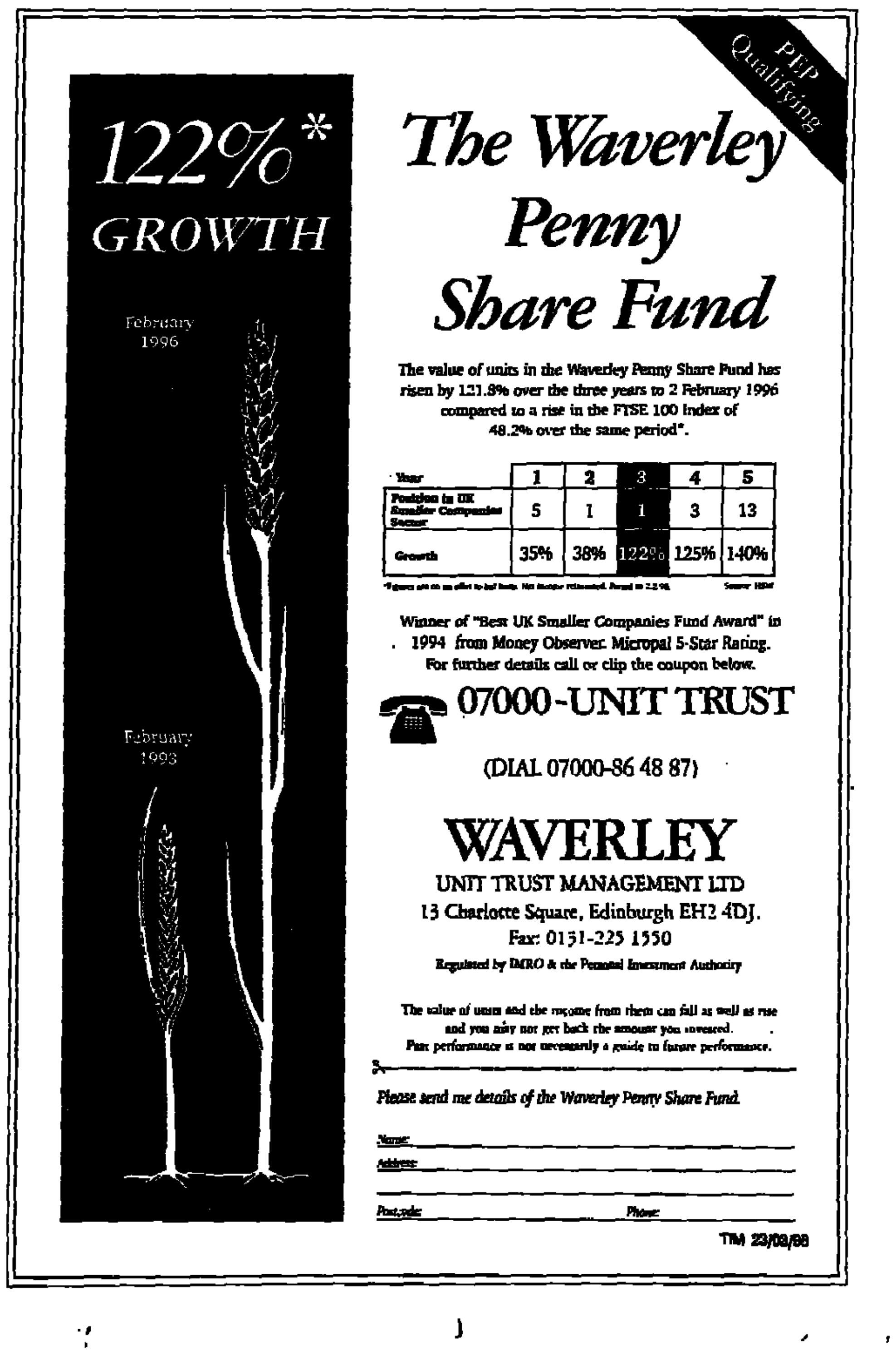
The best-paid UK-based director was Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets. He enjoyed a 26 per cent total pay rise to £617,000 including a £277,000 bonus.

Lord Alexander, the chairman, was paid 8.8 per cent more at £454,000. His bonus was £135,000, up on the previous year's £100,000. John Melbourn, deputy chief executive, was paid 15.8 per cent more at £476,000.

Martin Gray, chief executive of NatWest UK, suffered a fall in his pay from £314,000 to £310,000.

Douglas Hurd, former Foreign Secretary, received £62,000 for his first two-and-a-half months as deputy chairman of NatWest Markets. The benefits of non-executive directors fell.

Wanless: overall increase



The Waverley Penny Share Fund

The value of units in the Waverley Penny Share Fund has risen by 121.8% over the three years to 2 February 1996 compared to a rise in the FTSE 100 Index of 48.2% over the same period*.

Year	1	2	3	4	5
Position in UK Smaller Companies Sector	5	1	1	3	13
Growth	35%	38%	122%	125%	140%

[illegible] Source: [illegible]

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TIM 23/03/96

Fund managers set to back the rat-catcher

MELVYN MARCKUS

◆

Curiouser and curiouser. After the Granada/Forte epic, the City has come up with a sort of corporate sideshow. Last month Rentokil, whose roots are steeped in rat poison, launched a near £2 billion takeover bid for BET, the service conglomerate whose operations range from the hire of towels to the hire of cranes.

I am not, I confess, particularly familiar with either of these companies but, merely by observing developments, one's learning curve inevitably improves. Originally, we are invited to believe, Rentokil favoured an agreed deal. Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil, made contact with Sir Christopher Harding, chairman of BET. In the event, John Clark, BET's chief executive, was in Houston and, during the run up to official disclosure of the approach, startling percipience (for want of a stronger phrase) served to rerate BET's shares by some 15 per cent.

The Stock Exchange, true to form, launched an investigation and, presumably, is in touch with the usual suspects. The Takeover Panel, with an admittedly less complex remit, also held an inquiry and, in the space of a week, publicly rebuked Lazards, advisers to Rentokil. According to the Panel, Lazards had failed to keep it fully informed of Rentokil's intentions and should have acted more quickly to prevent a false market in BET's shares.

No sooner did Rentokil reveal its wish to parley then it abandoned this tactic in favour of a hostile bid based on a cash and share package which, taking Rentokil at 359p, currently values BET at 200.2p. This is accompanied by an all-cash alternative of 179.5p.

BET promptly described the terms as "wholly inadequate" and speculation had it that the company was considering basing its defence on a major restructuring operation, including disposals worth some £300 million. Such speculation, unlike the bid speculation, proved wrong. This would appear fortunate because it is highly debatable whether BET's parts are worth more than the price Rentokil has offered for the whole.

From the outset, neither Thompson nor Clark agreed on anything, including the potential overlap between the two companies. Thompson proclaimed the overlap was in the region of 70 per cent; Clark argued it was nearer 25 per cent. Insults were exchanged. Rentokil charged BET's management with having "demonstrably failed to enhance shareholder value". BET retorted that Rentokil's offer revealed "a muddled plan to create an unfocused conglomerate".

It was at this point, a matter of days after Rentokil opted, for a hostile approach, that it proposed to BET that it should purchase just 75 per cent of the company in return for a recommendation. Feelers were put out by Nicholas Jones of Lazards who suggested to Barings, advisers to BET, that discussions should focus on Rentokil's acquisition of BET's textile services, distribution and electronic security operations. BET promptly rejected the proposal on the grounds that the businesses Rentokil wanted to acquire were central to the company's strategy. As BET put it: "This would have left shareholders without an offer and the company with only a quarter of its operations." Under the proposal, BET would have retained its plant hire, resort management and conference operations, which account for about 25 per cent of sales. Any deal would probably have left BET with a significant capital gains tax liability.

Thompson's reaction was that he was "disappointed" that BET had rejected the opportunity to enter into discussions, a move "surely against the best interests of BET shareholders". Thompson, brimming with munificence, added that Rentokil had been prepared to examine a number of possibilities to avoid leaving BET with a large tax liability. Such possibilities included the acquisition of the whole company and a subsequent spin-off of the parts Rentokil did not want.

This approach, to all intents and purposes, was perceived as strictly for the birds: the birds being those institutional shareholders who were not entirely happy about Rentokil's extravaganza. Rentokil, it may be recalled, is the company that has achieved 20 per cent growth per annum for the best part of a decade and a half. The secrets of Rentokil's success, under Thompson, have been a host of bolt-on acquisitions, organic growth and the creation of a well-trained and well-equipped blue collar workforce. BET, in contrast, faced bankruptcy during the early Nineties, the legacy of wild takeover flings during the Eighties. Clark, an ex-US Marine, was called in to rationalise operations, a task that culminated in last Thursday's forecast that pre-tax profits will rise 28 per cent this year to £142 million. As Clark delicately put it: "We came in to fix this mother and now it's really growing."

It is no secret that several institutions, sensitive to the controversy that surrounded their support for the creation of a Granada/Forte conglomerate, would have liked to have seen an agreed deal. As one fund manager informed the *Financial Times*, fees — expected to total more than £100 million — will soon equate to "the market capitalisation of a decent sized company." Equally eyecatching were the headlines to the effect that Clark will receive more than £5 million if Rentokil's bid succeeds. This embraces some *£3 million from a medium-term* incentive scheme, the targets of which have been triggered by the offer price. Clark is expected to garner a profit of more than £1 million on share options and he also enjoys a three-year rolling contract, his annual salary being £480,000. Lord Tebbit, a non-executive director of BET and chairman of the company's remuneration committee, responded: "There was not a long queue of suitable applicants for the post when we recruted him in 1991."

The potential rewards for Clark (who is, after all, opposing the bid) are reputed to have "provoked outrage" among certain anonymous institutions. Strange, therefore, that such institutions did not oppose the plan when it was introduced in the autumn of 1993. One sure way of preventing Clark from reaping his rewards would be to reject Rentokil's bid, even if the terms are modestly increased. I jest. The reality is that fund managers are almost certainly going to accept, as they almost always do. That is *why BET's shares, at 204p, are* standing at a modest premium.

Builder's profits slump

Wilson Connolly, the Midlands builder, reported a 41 per cent slump in pretax profits.

Lynn Wilson, chairman, said 1995 had fallen short of expectations after hopes of recovery faltered and left the company with profits before tax of £22.5 million for the year to December 31.

The final dividend, payable June 3, was set at 3.18p, which maintained the total at 4.54p.

The company was beset by lower house sales and also falling prices on those it did sell.

Profit margins were further affected by increases in building costs which fed through from the previous year.

GWR deals

GWR Group, the commercial radio operator, is looking to expand in the UK and New Zealand in deals worth a combined total of up to £62.2 million. It wants 75 per cent of Radio New Zealand for NZ$85 million (£37.9 million) and has launched a £24.3 million agreed offer for East Anglian Radio. Shares eased 5p to 246p.

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NTC forecast

Consumer activity should pick up around the middle of this year, according to NTC, the business research organisation.

C E Heath to split and float its computer services arm

By Marianne Curphey

CE HEATH, the insurance broker whose shares have fallen almost £3 in two years, has confirmed plans to split its broking and computer services divisions and float the latter under the name of Rebus on April 17.

Peter Presland, Heath's outgoing chief executive will head the computer division and his salary will be reduced from £195,000 to £150,000. However, he will walk away with a package of £300,000 to compensate him for the severance of his three-year rolling contract with Heath. He will also remain on the board of Heath as a non-executive director on a salary of £15,000 a year.

His compensation package is bound to anger some small shareholders who 18 months ago reacted furiously to a loyalty bonus package worth a total of £1.6 million paid to John Mackenzie Green (then managing director and now Heath chief executive) and Mr Presland. The bonus came at a time when Heath had made a small pre-tax profit of £3.84 million and a post-tax loss for the 1993-94 financial year of £8.4 million.

Shareholders will be offered one Rebus share for every Heath share they hold. Heath is subscribing for £4.5 million worth of new shares in Rebus, which it will keep for at least one year.

Heath, which will continue to be listed, will concentrate on broking.

Paul Hughes, group finance director, said the exact number of shares depended on the opening price at flotation, but Heath would hold a maximum 9.5 per cent of Rebus shares.

Mr Hughes said the company's market capitalisation was between £50 million and £55 million. With 68 million shares in issue, this would put the value of Rebus shares at between 74p and 80p each. Rebus is expected to post a pretax, pre-exceptionals profit of £6.5 million for the year to the end of this month.

Heath said rates in the UK market had been falling and competition "remained strong". Heath will pay a total dividend for 1995 of 6p in August, down from 11p last year, and Rebus will pay a dividend of 1.16p in July.

Heath shares rose by 2p to 170p.

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BA contract for General Electric

By Ross Tieman
Industrial Correspondent

GENERAL ELECTRIC has secured a £1.5 billion follow-on contract to repair and overhaul engines for the entire British Airways fleet of jet airliners.

The work, won in the face of competition from engine overhaul companies throughout the world, will be undertaken at the General Electric Aircraft Engine Services plant at Nantgarw, Mid Glamorgan. GE bought the operation for £274 million in 1991, in a deal that coincided with a BA decision to foresake its long-term key engine supplier, Rolls-Royce, in order to buy GE engines to power the airline's new Boeing 777 sub-jumbos.

Under the agreement, GE will overhaul and repair engines ranging from the Rolls-Royce Olympus units that power BA's Concordes to the CFM units on its Airbus A320s.

George Duncanson, the GEAES managing director, said that the BA contract, and the resulting workload, would "serve as a springboard for GE engine services' global growth strategy."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Wates buys BP tower

WATES CITY OF LONDON PROPERTIES is buying Britannic Tower, the City of London's second-tallest office building, from BP.

The deal involves an initial payment of £30 million and a further undisclosed cash payment dependent on the outcome of the proposed development of the building. Britannic Tower has 28 office floors and five plant floors. The building also has underground leisure, catering, conference and storage facilities. There are 220 car parking spaces.

Yorkshire Food steady

YORKSHIRE FOOD GROUP held pre-tax profits steady at £5.9 million in 1995, a year in which it shifted its main business, of dried fruit and nuts, to California, from Britain. Mike Firth, chairman, said: "From a small UK food manufacturing group, it has emerged as one of the best positioned dried fruit and nut businesses in the global ingredients market. Opportunities for growth are significant." The board intends to shed virtually all of its remaining UK businesses this year. A 3p final dividend, due on May 8, makes 3.88p, up from 3.52p. Earnings per share were 10.47p (10.28p).

Avonside in the red

AVONSIDE GROUP, the building services company, incurred £5.2 million losses before tax last year after a severe deterioration in the new housing market in the North West. In 1994 there was a £5.5 million profit. The company has cut the total dividend to 1p from 4.4p, passing the payment of a final dividend. Loss per share was 11.62p, compared with earnings of 8.63p. The company said that although trading might improve for housebuilders in some parts of the country, conditions in the North West have yet to react.

Mike Handley expects margins to recover next year

McBride still suffering

MCBRIDE, the supplier of private label household and personal care products that issued a profits warning in January, yesterday reported a sharp fall in first half earnings and said margins have not yet recovered as well as expected.

In the six months to the end of December pre-tax profits fell to £8 million from £14.7 million. At the operating level, profits slipped to £16.2 million (£20.2 million). The 2.25p interim is in line with last year's flotation forecast. Mike Handley, group managing director, said: "Next year, margins are expected to recover as a result of the full impact of this year's selling price increases, generally stable raw material and packaging prices, reduction in the cost base and the benefit of sales growth."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch	16.99	15.49
Belgium Fr	49.70	45.40
Canada $	2.198	2.038
Cyprus Cyp£	0.756	0.701
Denmark Kr	9.39	8.59
Finland Mkk	7.65	7.00
France Fr	8.21	7.56
Germany Dm	2.43	2.22
Greece Dr	392.00	367.00
Hong Kong $	12.51	11.51
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1500	4.5000
Italy Lira	2514.00	2359.00
Japan Yen	178.50	162.50
Malta	0.594	0.539
Netherlds Gld	2.697	2.467
New Zealand $	2.39	2.17
Norway Kr	10.47	9.67
Portugal Esc	246.50	228.00
S Africa Rd	6.55	5.75
Spain Pta	198.00	185.00
Sweden Kr	10.85	10.05
Switzerland Fr	1.97	1.79
Turkey Lira	111312.	103312.
USA $	1.632	1.502

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"Like a college of cardinals, the process was shrouded in secrecy and surrounded by rumours of dark and bitter plots. But finally the puff of white smoke appeared and GEC had a successor to Lord Weinstock . . ."

How the mantle was passed — Business, The Sunday Times tomorrow

BET

BET is a multinational support services group providing specialist outsourcing to industrial, commercial and public sector customers

Profit forecast update

FREEPHONE 0800 771177

BET is subject to a bid from Rentokil.
Sir Christopher Harding, Chairman of BET, can be heard on the above freephone number with an updated message for shareholders.

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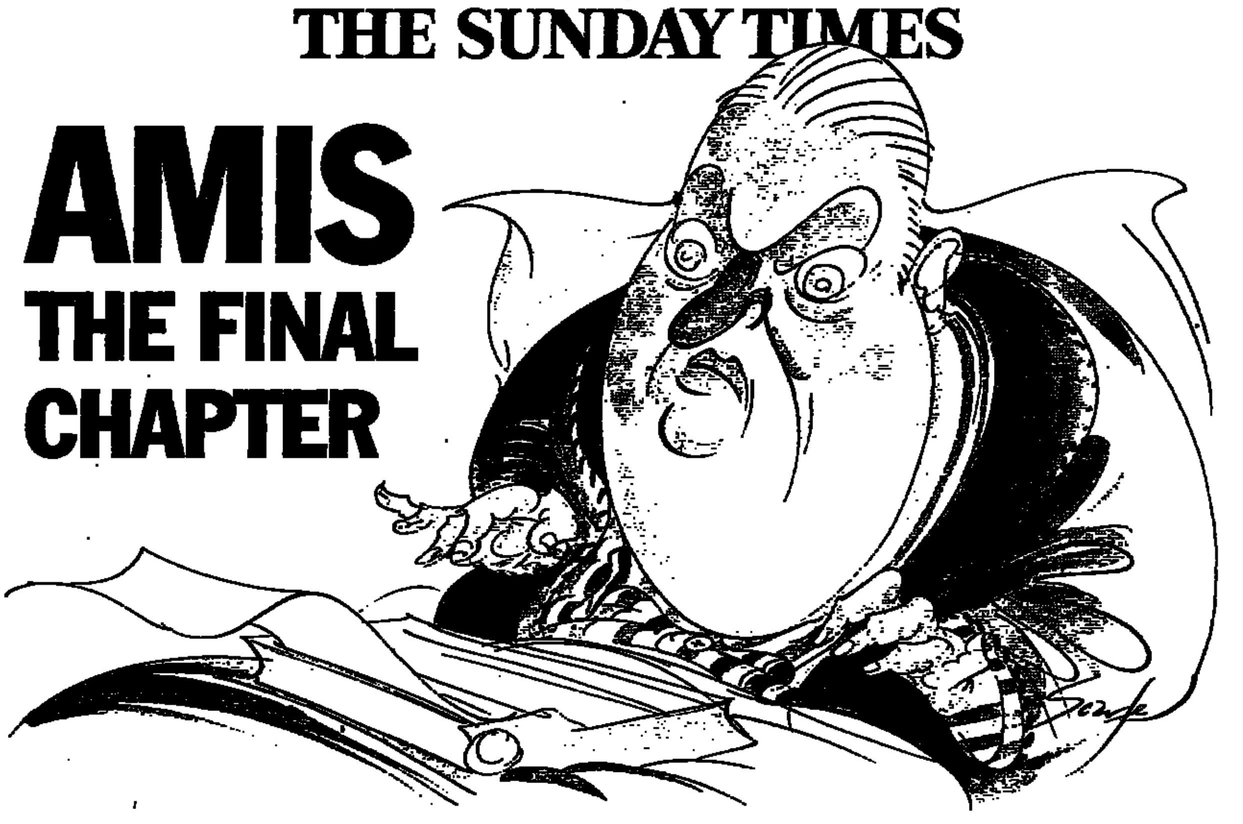
THE SUNDAY TIMES

AMIS
THE FINAL CHAPTER



When Kingsley Amis fell ill, he turned for companionship to his friend Eric Jacobs. But after the 'Oldest Devil' died, Jacobs was barred from the funeral. Find out why in the second exclusive extract from the Amis Diaries, in **News Review** tomorrow

FIRE IN THE SOLE

Hailed as the new Valentino, Joaquin Cortés is the Flamenco king with the world at his feet. Britain gets its first glimpse of the sensual Spaniard at Sadler's Wells tomorrow. Georgina Howell profiles him in the Magazine

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

هكذا من الاصل

A WORKING WEEK FOR: ROBERT WILSON

Mining chief with a mountain to climb

Jon Ashworth extracts globe-trotting details from the man who clocked up 125,000 miles in the air during merger negotiations alone

FOURTEEN thousand feet up a mountain in Indonesia is no place to make the mining discovery of the century. One would not expect to find a cluster of diamond pipes under a lake in Canada's frozen north. Jungle or ice, the mining engineers will devise a way of reaching their hidden treasure. And the man who pushes the button to start things rolling might very well be Robert Wilson.

Wilson, 52, is probably the most powerful man in world mining today. He has just clinched the mammoth merger of two of the great mining houses, RTZ, based in London, with tentacles reaching around the globe, and CRA, based in Melbourne, and a household name on the Pacific Rim. As chief executive of RTZ-CRA, with a market capitalisation of $20 billion, and 44,000 employees, Wilson is orchestrating a round of musical chairs which has senior executives shuttling between the UK, Australia, Namibia and America. Hectic times lie ahead.

Grasberg mountain in Irian Jaya is one of the most impressive feats of mining one is ever likely to encounter. Wilson visited the site for the first time last year, and was suitably awed. "It's literally at the top of a mountain," he says, relaxing in an office that could not be more removed from the dust and heat of the rockface. "The mine site tends to get immersed in clouds by midday, and there is heavy rainfall as well. It's an extraordinarily remote location. The feeling of remoteness is quite different from any other mine site I've ever been to."

The Grasberg visit was part of a weekly routine that might take in a whirlwind tour of America, a board meeting in London, a multicountry video conference, and a night at the opera. Wilson took the easy way up the mountain — by helicopter — soaring past rainforest and mangroves towards the peak, which is literally being torn apart. The mine site at 14,000ft leads to a mill at 9,000ft, from where copper, goldand silver are sent slooshing down a pipeline to the coast.

Over the border in Papua New Guinea, on remote Bougainville Island, is a location that Wilson will not be putting on his weekly touring list. Bougainville is a name that the planners at RTZ would just as soon forget. In 1972, construction began on what was the Grasberg of its day, a fabulously rich goldmine, carved out of densest jungle.

Ethnic clashes began to take their toll, and RTZ was forced to pull out, leaving machinery, housing, vehicles — everything. No one has been back since. "It's been totally deserted by the company since 1989," says Wilson. "Quite what a state things are in is a bit difficult to judge, because we haven't had anybody up there since. It could be rehabilitated, I believe. I hesitate to think what the cost would be."

The evacuation took place down a narrow corridor leading 25 miles to the coast. "The company had built a road through the jungle, through the mountain, into the mine site. I would guess that road might well substantially need rebuilding now, because of landslides, because effectively a jungle takes over again if you just neglect it for too long."

Wilson encountered a different type of jungle earlier this month, when he unveiled the company's latest financial results. The logistics of running a global mining house were only too apparent. After a board meeting which saw directors fly in from around the world, Leon Davis, soon to take up residence in London as Wilson's right-hand man, flew back to Australia with Chris Bull, group finance director. They arrived in Melbourne on Thursday morning, leaving little time before the results flashed up at 2pm local time. In London, where it was 3am, staff diligently began issuing press releases. "Lots of people started their day at 3am," says Wilson. "I wasn't one of them."

Wilson and his team had an action-packed morning, briefing analysts at 8am, fund managers at 10am and journalists at noon. The presentations were linked by video-conference with the redoubtable Davis and Bull, sitting in a studio in Melbourne. Wilson was suitably impressed by their stamina. "By the time we finished the last meeting, which was around about 1pm or even a bit after that, it was past midnight over there, and those guys had been at it all day."

> ‘Geologists were careless in finding a deposit under a lake’

Long-haul travel is unavoidable at a group which has interests in so many countries. So far this year, Wilson has visited sites at Palabora and Richards Bay in South Africa. He leaves this weekend for America, starting in New York, where he will brief financiers, then proceeding to an investment mining conference in Phoenix, Arizona. A visit to Los Angeles rounds off a week-long trip. "We don't have a company plane," says Wilson. "We have no corporate planes out of RTZ, except for local site planes where it may be difficult in terms of travel." The company occasionally charters aircraft to cope with difficult itineraries.

Wilson clocked up 125,000 air miles negotiating the CRA merger, and has his seating preferences down to a tee. He spends between a quarter and a third of the year travelling abroad on trips of a comparatively short duration. Two or three directors spend well over half the year away from the UK. "It's simply a function of the nature of our business. We're spread all over the globe, and as long as we want to try and run this business from a very small head office, then it means that people are going to have to spend a lot of time travelling."

Video-conferencing points the way forward. "I can see a time in the future when our results' presentation is going to be a full 24-hour cycle, starting in Australia and finishing up in the States." Employees are treated to more mundane means of communication. "People have the great excitement of watching me on a video talking to them about whatever happens to be the interest of the day. But nothing is a proper substitute for face-to-face contact."

ANDRE CAMARA

The day on which Robert Wilson recently unveiled his company's results was a long one. "Lots of people started their day at 3am," he said. "I wasn't one of them"

No two weeks are the same at RTZ-CRA, but Wilson has something approaching a typical day. He is usually at his desk by 8.30am until the evening "whatever it needs to be". He does not have far to travel. "I used to live in Surrey, but it got to the point where I was moving up on Monday, going back on Friday, so we decided to move up lock, stock and barrel." He and his wife live in Kensington. They have a son away at school, and a daughter at university.

Wilson does not come across as someone who lets his hair down outside office hours — he won't even admit to a thrill at seeing machinery in action — but he does have some outside interests. His eyes light up at the mention of opera — one might well run into him at Covent Garden — and he enjoys classical concerts. "I don't think anyone wants to live under the continuous pressure of working 16 hours a day. I don't think that's good for anybody. There needs to be some sort of mix of a normal social life. There are periods, obviously, when you have to live pretty intensely. Concluding the merger deal with CRA was rather demanding, but you don't have to live like that all the time."

Wilson succeeds Sir Derek Birkin as chairman of RTZ-CRA in December. He enthuses about the potential of India, Latin America and the Pacific Rim, and of the scope for a dozen new projects. "The mining industry is really not that massive an industry worldwide, and a comparatively small number of mines make most of the money. I see our business as actually getting into as many of those really high-quality, long-term, profitable, mine opportunities, rather than force-fitting us into a company which is going to have a predetermined and necessarily arbitrary commodity base."

The enlarged RTZ-CRA is most heavily orientated towards Australia/New Zealand and North America, with 39 per cent and 32 per cent of sales revenue apiece. Opportunities in India and elsewhere may help to balance the portfolio. "Foreign mining companies haven't been welcome in India until recently. But there clearly is potential for iron ore projects, for coal projects, mineral sands, maybe diamonds, bauxite."

One of the group's most exciting new finds is a diamond strike involving a cluster of Kimberlite pipes in Canada's Northwest Territories. Test drilling at the site suggests it could be producing 5 per cent of the world's gemstones within five years, if it proves viable. The main drawback is the location — under a lake in inhospitable terrain. "Our geologists were a bit careless in finding a deposit under a lake rather than on dry ground. But it's nearly all lakes up there."

The interview at an end, Wilson stands to shake hands, his suit immaculate, his office steeped in grandeur. On Grasberg, half a world away, dust flies and machinery roars. And on distant Bougainville, jungle entwines with rusting metal, cloaked in silence.

HIDDEN ASSETS

Arched pleasure concealed in Showering's garden

Sarah Cunningham on the view from the viaduct that few get a chance to see

A DISUSED railway viaduct in Somerset has to be Allied Domecq's most whimsical asset. Miles from any of the drinks group's offices or factories, the company happens to own the viaduct because of the passion for gardening of Francis Showering, the inventor of Babycham.

The viaduct, in Shepton Mallet, stopped bearing trains more than 30 years ago, a victim of the Beeching cuts to the national rail network in the 1960s. A splendid, curving, 300-yard stretch of line owned by what was Somerset and Dorset Railways — known to locals as the "Slow and Dirty" — it was sold to the Showering drinks company for the grand sum of £5.

Francis Showering and his brothers, millionaires from the success of the sweet and fizzy "ladies' drink" Babycham, bought it because it backed on to the company's extensive gardens behind Kilver Court, its headquarters. The Grade II listed Victorian viaduct's brick-lined arches made a perfect backdrop to the 3.5 acres of formal gardens which were Francis Showering's pride and joy, explains Jean Curtis, property administrator for Allied Domecq.

The Showering company was bought by Allied Breweries, the original Allied drinks group, in 1968. After a series of acquisitions, it became Allied Lyons, and, in 1994, Allied Domecq.

The Babycham business was sold in 1992 to a management buyout team, and has since been bought by the cider makers Matthew Clark. The canny managers, as part of the buyout deal, kept Kilver Court and its gardens, but made Allied keep the expensive-to-maintain viaduct.

The building and gardens were bought last July by Mulberry, the fashion company. On Monday, the Princess Royal will officially open Kilver House as its new corporate headquarters. So Mulberry staff will have the benefit of the gardens in which to eat their lunchtime sandwiches, with a backdrop courtesy of Allied Domecq.

Mrs Curtis was sorry when she had to leave the old Showering offices after some 30 happy years. She now works in Allied Domecq offices in Bristol, while still ensuring, on behalf of the company, that the viaduct is kept in good condition. Its stone and brick surface is regularly cleaned and its top has been asphalted so that frost could not penetrate the stone and damage the structure. The rails themselves are long gone and the viaduct tapers at either end into grass banks.

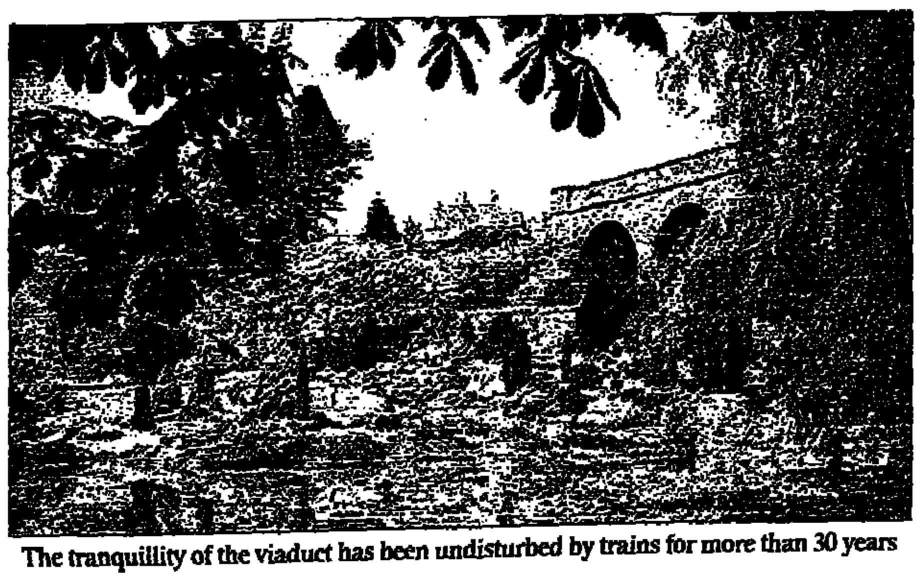
The 50ft-high viaduct is not open to the public. Mrs Curtis, who still lives in Shepton Mallet, is one of the few people allowed on to it and says the climb up the embankment gives a lovely view of the Mendip Hills.

In spite of the cleaning, time has taken a toll of the structure, and last year it was decided to repair it. English Heritage has stepped in with a grant to provide about 40 per cent of the £277,000 needed to ensure the viaduct's future. Work should finish in the autumn.

Mulberry is now in talks with Allied Domecq about buying the viaduct. It plans to use the structure as part of its 25th anniversary celebration in July, draping the whole thing in Mulberry fabric and staging an operatic performance on top.

Mulberry is restoring the gardens, under the guidance of its chairman and designer Roger Haul. The original lawns, waterfall, rock garden and paths are being preserved, and young oak and beech trees have been planted near the viaduct, to soften its appearance.

Mulberry is opening the gardens to the public for one day on May 26. A visit is in order for fans of gardening, whimsy and fine Victorian industrial architecture.



The tranquillity of the viaduct has been undisturbed by trains for more than 30 years

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MORGAN GRENFELL ASSET MANAGEMENT

* £6,000 invested 5 years ago would now be valued at £20,440. Source: Micropal, offer to bid, gross income reinvested since launch (11.4.88) and 5 years (1.3.91) to 1.3.96
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STOCK MARKET **MICHAEL CLARK**

Guinness buyback keeps the index above 3,700

THE London Stock Market climbed back above the 3,700 level as more than a billion shares changed hands. But it was not the sort of performance that raging bull markets are made of. Several large program trades and a buyback programme conducted by Guinness accounted for at least 400 million of the 1.1 billion shares traded. Genuine retail demand left much to be desired.

Overshadowing events was another gloomy peformance from government bonds, where losses stretched to almost £¾ at the longer end. The FT-SE 100 index, having clawed back an early 16-point fall, spent much of the day clinging on to small gains. Without any real direction from Wall Street it closed 8.7 points up at 3,707.0, a rise on the week of 62.2.

Less than 24 hours after unveiling full-year figures, Guinness was back in the marketplace buying back its own shares. Cazenove, its own broker, is reckoned to have picked up a total of 100 million shares at around 463p at a total cost of £463 million. The move is designed to enhance earnings.

Tony Greener, chairman, said it was the aim of the group to return surplus cash to shareholders either through dividends or share repurchases.

LVMH-Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the luxury goods group that owns 20 per cent of Guinness, is not thought to have sold any of its shares, though there has been intense speculation recently that it was planning to do so. **Guinness** finished 5p better at 466p as turnover reached a massive 211.5 million shares.

There was also heavy turnover recorded in **Clubhaus**, the leisure group floated off from Ex-Lands, where a total 66.2 million shares were traded as the price firmed ¼p to 6¼p. This follows the placing of shares by Ex-Lands investors who did not wish to hold on to their entitlement in a leisure company following the demerger.

There was talk that Sun Alliance, the insurance composite, was ready to bid for Friends Provident, the life assurance specialist. City speculators say such a bid could be worth up to £1 billion, not that the FP share price gave any indication, closing all-square at 170p. **Sun Alliance** refused to comment on City gossip and closed 1½p easier at 375p.

The row over "mad cow" disease and the growing number of countries banning British beef exports remained a topic of conversation for dealers among City watering holes. But its commercial impact on the Square Mile remains negligible. There was only one casualty yesterday, with **Sims Food** coming under the hammer as a supplier of beefburgers. Sims finished another 3p down at 19p, for a two-day loss of 9p. But **Kerry Group "A"**, the Irish food group, rallied 5p to 540p, while **Perkins Foods** was unchanged at 75p.

One man's meat remains another's poison and this was evident in **Bernard Matthews**, the turkey producer, up 14p at 116p. **Electrophoretics International** was another company to benefit from the scare, rising 13p to 165p. The group has been actively trying to develop a cure for the disease bovine spongiform encephalopathy, which, it is now feared, has been transmitted to humans.

They tried to call Siebe lower in early trading without much success. Investors appeared happy to shrug off claims that Siebe will need to ask shareholders for extra funds if it decides to launch a bid for **Unitech**, unchanged at 671p. Only last week Siebe acquired Elektrowatt's 25 per cent stake in Unitech, leading to claims it may want to bid for the rest. **Siebe** finished 13p dearer at 866p.

Last year was a tough one for **Wilson Connolly**, the housebuilder, and it does not look as if conditions are getting any better. The outcome was even worse than expected, with pre-tax profits tumbling £38.2 million to £22.5 million. Originally, analysts had pencilled in a figure of £37 million. Lynn Wilson, chairman, blamed job insecurity, reductions in mortgage tax relief and the lack of fiscal support for the housing market which had impacted on fragile consumer confidence. The shares fell 12p to 162p.

Rolls-Royce, the aeroengine group, eased 2p to 219p despite learning that Mercury Asset Management had continued adding to its holding. On Wednesday it picked up a further 513,000 shares, lifting its total holding to 205.5 million, or almost 14 per cent of the issued share capital. This latest purchase is believed to have stretched the total number of shares it has bought this week to one million.

Speculative buying lifted **Ladbroke** another 2½p to 192½p. Talk of a bid from Bass, 2p easier at 750p, or the Hilton Hotel Group in the US persists.

Universal Ceramic rose 4p to 108p after unveiling full-year figures and details of a placing and open offer of 3.9 million shares at 95p.

The proceeds of £3.56 million will be used to fund the expansion of the group's magnesia plant on Humberside and provide additional working capital. Beeson Gregory, the broker, continues to recommend the shares as a buy.

Plans to demerge its computer services division lifted **C E Heath**, the insurance broker, 2p to 170p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Prices fell sharply across the board after a steady start to the day. Brokers said the losses reflected similar moves on other European bond markets, but the falls in London were heavier. The declines began after lunch, leaving prices to close at their low for the day.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt tumbled £1 11/16 to £104 21/32 as the number of contracts completed fell to 35,000. Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2015 dropped £25/32 to £96 13/32, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 fell £13/32 to £102.

☐ **NEW YORK**: On Wall Street caution replaced the volatility of recent weeks and shares were slightly higher. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 5,628.22, up 1.45 points.

Shares in Wilson Connolly the builder dropped 12p

Frost Group, the petrol retailer, stood out with a rise of 17p to 133p as James Frost, chairman, bought 114,000 shares, stretching his total holding to 260,000 shares. Earlier this week the group reported a 26 per cent boost in earnings. Last year Frost shares tumbled from a peak of 285p to a low of 110p.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
South West Water	667p	+48p	Control battle looms
Unitech	671p	+156p	Awaiting Siebe bid
Rainford	268p	-106p	Profits warning
Doeflex	241p	+33p	Better than expected profits
Eidos	828p	+65p	Licensing deal with Oracle Corp
Telspec	695p	-133p	Disappointing trading news
Weir Group	260p	+28p	Impressive profit numbers
Thames Water	578p	+33p	Restructuring proposals
Wilson Connolly	162p	-17p	Sharp fall in profits

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5628.33 (+1.45)
S&P Composite 649.75 (+0.56)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20700.92 (-26.61)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11026.73 (-1.23)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 528.20 (+0.99)

Sydney:
AO 2245.0 (-17.9)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2504.02 (-0.10)

Singapore:
Straits 2398.62 (-24.18)

Brussels:
General 8711.61 (-38.46)

Paris:
CAC-40 1974.35 (-2.54)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 770.20 (+4.90)

London:
FT 30 2769.1 (-0.2)
FT 100 3707.0 (+8.7)
FT-SE Mid 250 4304.3 (+6.9)
FT-SE-A 350 1864.6 (+4.1)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1612.99 (+2.71)
FT A All-Share 1843.51 (+3.91)
FT Non Financials 1961.29 (+2.44)
FT Fixed Interest 110.86 (-0.03)
FT Govt Secs 92.15 (-0.51)
Bargains 41207
SEAQ Volume 1109.6m
USM (Datastrm) 209.85 (+0.98)
US$ 1.5348 (-0.0024)
German Mark 2.2646 (-0.0051)
Exchange Index 83.9 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.1981
£:SDR 1.0524
RPI 150.9 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 150.2 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

BZW Eq (Brmd) A	517	+ 3
Clubhaus Wts	3	...
Freepages (12)	14½	...
Fulmar (154)	188	+ 2
IOC Intl	128	- 2
Int Brech Tst C (100)	100	...
Life Off Opps (100)	52	...
M & G Equity Cap	22½	...
M & G Equity Div	90	...
M & G Equity Inc	44	+ ½
Macdonald Htl (145)	191	+ 1
Marine & Merc (125)	125	...
Perp Inc Gth Ut (500)	509	...
Primary Hlth (100)	103	...
Saracen Value C	97	...
Schroder UK G Uts	255½	...
Silver Shield (3)	3¼	...
Stadium Group (120)	137	+ 1
Streamline (180)	175	...
Triad Group (135)	181	+ 3
Visual Action (185)	253	+ 11
Western Select Wts	5	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Abbott Md Vckr (460)	90	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Frost Group 133p (+17p)
Matthews (B) 116p (+14p)
UK Land 95p (+10p)
Toy Options 106p (+10p)
Garton Eng 189p (+12p)
Wardle Storeys 420p (+25p)
Natl Express 514p (+28p)
Dorling Kind 575p (+30p)
Visual Action 253p (+11p)
Cortecs 289p (+11p)
MITIE Gp 335p (+11p)
Smith WH 447p (+10p)
Abbey National 575p (+15p)
Kingfisher 551p (+10p)
Chubb Sec 365p (+11p)
FALLS:
Wilson (C) 162p (-12p)
Go-Ahead 297p (-12p)
Micro Focus 593p (-22p)
Trinity Intl 421p (-12p)
Johnson Matth 578p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 45

TEMPUS

Surfing Kiwi radio waves

IF ANYONE had any doubts that New Zealand is for sale, the auction of Radio New Zealand should remove them. If GWR is successful with its £38 million bid, the British company will end up with a 75 per cent share of the New Zealand commercial radio market. Competition rules will reduce that to 65 per cent with the loss of a few licences, but a deal would give GWR a commanding position and a springboard for further expansion in Australasia.

GWR's business may be local, but its ambitions are clearly global. In the UK, opportunities are now limited: yesterday's proposed takeover of East Anglian Radio puts the company just over the 15 per cent ownership limit. The imminent award of new licences means that GWR will be able to complete the deal without trouble, but clearly, the rapid spate of corporate expansion in this country must now slow.

That does not necessarily mean that profits growth will slow; revenues will increase rapidly, because radio's share of total advertising take should grow from 4 per cent to 5.5 per cent by the end of the decade. At the same time, cost-savings will accelerate growth; GWR generally manages to reduce overheads by 10 to 15 per cent on each acquisition. In New Zealand, the scope for savings is probably greater. Currently state-owned, the organisation has civil service manning levels and could, some reckon, cut its headcount by half.

GWR's fancy rating lets it contemplate a bid for East Anglian at an exit multiple in the mid-20s. Its own rating should not suffer, being supported by the large shareholders Emap and Capital Radio, and there is further to go.

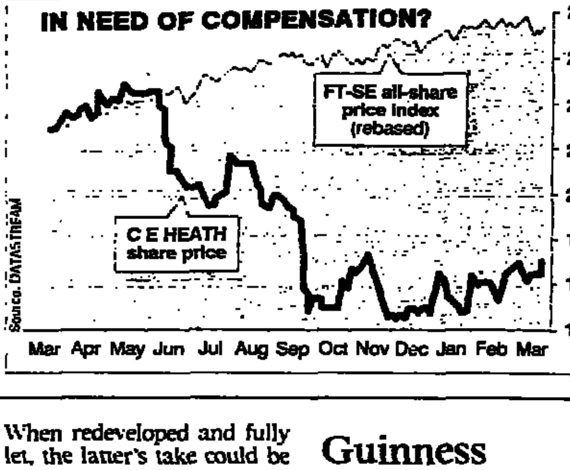
C E Heath

SHARES in C E Heath crept up a few pence yesterday, but that is scant reward for investors who bought the stock at the heady price of £4.50. They could be forgiven for asking why, when the price has fallen to £1.70, the dividend has been cut, and profits have been disappointing, that Peter Presland, Heath's outgoing chief executive, has been waved off with a £300,000 severance payment and a new job at the head of Rebus, the computer services operation.

The two divisions, broking and computing, never really fitted, and the demerger offers the chance for the computer operation to strike out alone, unencumbered by the cyclicality of the UK insurance market.

Heath has given what amounts to a warning about current trading conditions, pointing to falling rates, stiff competition, and little prospect of strong growth this year. It also admits that Premium Search, the telephone motor insurance service that it launched in August 1994, is not expected to make a profit until 1998.

Nevertheless, computing is a competitive game, and the bulk of Mr Presland's experience is in broking. While it waits for shareholder approval for the scheme on April 15, C E Heath is vulnerable to a takeover bid, particularly from an overseas predator. A likely candidate has yet to pounce, but would be the best hope for the shares which are currently stuck in the doldrums.



Wates

WATES City of London Properties is used to carrying all its eggs in one basket. The company has always specialised in City office buildings and paid dearly for its heavy exposure in the 1990 property market collapse. But yesterday's purchase of Britannic Tower in the City adds an ostrich egg to the collection.

Britannic will be the single biggest property in the portfolio and, when redeveloped and fully let, should account for more than half of the property group's assets. Even on the basis of the more conservative of Wates's two development plans, the total investment could be £100 million, a large commitment for a company with net assets of £158 million. A joint venture partner looks inevitable.

A price of £30 million for more than 400,000 square feet in middle of the square mile looks cheap, but Wates has given away some of the upside to BP, the vendor. When redeveloped and fully let, the latter's take could be nearer £40 million. Even so, Wates is sensible to get in at a low price, reducing its risk and sharing the upside. The company is being coy about its plans for the building, but substantial redevelopment is envisaged, including new retailing and restaurant space. Even a hotel is rumoured, but the main attraction may be large dealing floors.

The theory is that dealing floors will be in strong demand in two to three years' time when Wates is marketing the building, but that assumes the City is still in growth mode. The lack of enthusiasm for the shares yesterday reflects some scepticism, but it is more likely to stem from impatience with the lack of detailed financial information from Wates. The company has debt of £58.5 million, but shows no interest charge; the entire cost is capitalised in developments. Not a good way to inspire confidence.

Guinness

BY LEAPING into the market yesterday, Guinness has managed to repair some of the share price erosion that followed the previous day's announcement of a profits decline. The company had hinted that a share buyback was possible and the decision to act immediately suggests a real commitment to making better use of its capital.

- Full expenditure of the £460 million would take gearing to the 40 per cent level, not high but a level that leaves little room for big corporate activity. That is in part a reflection of the lack of opportunities — the most desirable white spirit brand is not for sale — but Guinness now has the chance to prove it can achieve more from its core brands. LVMH did not take part in the buyback, which suggests at least one shareholder believes that there is more to go for.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	882-860	May	976-974
May	893-892	Jul	unq
Jul	915-914	Sep	...
Sep	932-931	Dec	...
Dec	943-942		
Mar	962-961		Volume: 5385

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2075-2060	Nov	1815-1813
May	1921-1920	Jan	1798-1796
Jul	1856-1857	Mar	1768-1766
Sep	1842-1840		Volume: 4062

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	327.0-25.5
Spot: 404.5		Mar	318.5-17.2
May	395.5-95.0	May	315.0-13.7
Aug	373.5-73.1	Aug	unq
Oct	337.5-37.0		Volume: 864

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 21

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	109.52	162.46	106.75
(+/-)	+1.52	+15.94	-14.87
Eng/Wales:	109.47	164.07	106.86
(+/-)	+1.58	+17.34	-14.99
(%)	-7.0	+11.0	-20.0
Scotland:	116.15	158.67	106.37
(+/-)	-7.01	+13.78	-14.38
(%)	+4.0	-42.0	-13.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	21.25	+0.85
Brent 15 day (May)	19.50	+0.70
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.35	+0.50
W Texas Intermediate (May)	21.95	+1.00
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.25	+0.60

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 201 (+2)	O: 203 (+3)
Gasoil EEC	199 (+3)	201 (+3)
Non EEC IH Apr	190 (+5)	192 (+5)
Non EEC IH May	175 (+4)	177 (+4)
3.5 Fuel Oil	107 (n/c)	109 (n/c)
Naphtha	178 (+5)	180 (+6)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Apr	183.50-83.75	Jul	159.00-59.50
May	170.75-71.00	Aug	158.25-59.50
Jun	163.50-63.75		Vol: 13830

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	19.52-19.54	Aug	n/a
Jun	18.32-18.37	sep	16.93-17.00
Jul	17.60 SLR		Vol: 39890

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	118.75	Mar	107.50
May	121.10	May	108.85
Jul	123.15	Sep	105.95
Sep	110.35	Nov	107.85
Nov	111.50	Jan	110.00
Volume: 419		Volume: 56	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	157.5	199.5
May	165.5	165.5
Jun	unq	225.0
		Volume: 51

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Apr 105.25-105.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 96	1445	1445	1445
Apr 96	1525	1516	1524
May 96	1463	1460	1463
Jul 96	1330	1330	1330
Vol: 43 lots		Open Interest: 5202	

Index 1422 +5

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2544.0-2545.0	2532.0-2533.0	Vol: 1672725
Lead ($/tonne)	892.00-895.00	801.00-802.00	291300
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1067.0-1068.0	1090.0-1091.0	262425
Tin ($/tonne)	6360.0-6370.0	6390.0-6400.0	40170
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1650.0-1652.0	1682.5-1683.0	2412250
Nickel ($/tonne)	8305.0-8310.0	8375.0-8380.0	89232

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	500	16½	26	39	6½	20½	24½
(*507)	550	1	9½	19	43	56	58
Argyll	300	14	21	26	2½	12½	16½
(*310)	330	1½	7½	13	20½	31½	34
ASDA	100	5	8½	11½	2	4	6½
(*103½)	110	0½	4½	7½	7½	9½	11½
Boots	600	15	28	37	8½	24	30
(*603½)	650	1	9	17½	46½	58	62½
Br Airways	500	33	43	49½	2½	13	18
(*529)	550	4	15½	24	24½	37½	43½
BP	550	14	26½	36½	8	19½	24½
(*554½)	600	0½	8	16½	45½	51½	55
Br Steel	180	18½	23	24½	0½	6½	8
(*197½)	200	4½	10½	13	7	16	18
C & W	460	35½	46	58½	5	15½	20½
(*490)	500	11	26	39½	18	33	40
CU	550	42½	57½	64	1½	8	16½
(*589)	600	9½	27	34½	18	27½	38½
ICI	900	51½	75½	87½	5½	18	29½
(*943)	950	18½	45	58½	22½	36½	51
Kingfishr	550	12	24½	34½	18½	28½	34½
(*551½)	600	0½	9	18½	60½	64	67½
Land Sec	600	21½	30½	34½	3	17½	21½
(*616½)	650	1	7½	13½	33½	51½	54
M & S	420	14½	22½	29	4	14	17½
(*429)	460	0½	6	12	31	39½	42
Nat West	600	51	68½	77	1½	10	19
(*646½)	650	15½	38	47½	15½	28½	38½
Sainsbury	360	17	23	29½	2½	11½	15
(*373)	390	3	8½	16	18½	29	32
Shell	850	11	23	33	25	33½	41
(*852½)	900	0½	7	15	71½	72½	75½
Smkl Bch	650	41½	57½	69	4	15	21½
(*684½)	700	12	29½	42½	23½	37½	44
Storehse	330	12½	22½	29	4½	13½	17½
(*337)	360	1½	9	15½	23½	30½	34
Trafalgar	45	4	4	4	0	0	0
(*48½)	50	0½	0½	0½	1½	1½	1½
Unilever	1200	40½	55½	76½	13½	26	33
(*1233)	1250	10½	31½	50	45	53½	59½
Zeneca	1350	35	79½	103½	29½	56	70
(*1351½)	1400	15½	59½	78½	58½	83	96

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	420	25½	33½	41½	7½	16	22
(*433)	460	8½	14½	23	30	38	43½
Ladbroke	180	21	29	30½	5½	10½	13
(*192½)	200	11	18½	21	15	20	23
Utd Bisc	240	10½	20½	24½	9	13	17½
(*246½)	260	4½	12	17½	22½	25½	29

March 22, 1996 Tot: 46230 Call: 17579 Put: 28651 FT-SE Call: 1306 Put: 3598
*Underlying security price.

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	500	39½	47½	56½	0½	7	11½
(*537)	550	5½	17½	27½	17	28½	32½
Thames W	550	31	41	47½	3	16	20
(*577½)	600	6	15	22½	25	44½	48

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	500	22½	37	43	16	29	33
(*501½)	550	5½	16½	22½	50	60½	63½
BTR	330	5	13	17	14	19½	23½
(*330)	360	0½	4	7	41	41	44
Br Aero	850	45	72½	88	18½	33½	43
(*871)	900	20	46½	62	45	58	67
Br Telcm	330	21	29½	32	4	12½	15½
(*342½)	360	6	14	17½	20	29½	32
Cadbury	500	30	44½	52	9½	15½	22½
(*517)	550	7½	21½	28½	36½	42	48
Guinness	460	14	24	30	16½	22½	27½
(*464)	500	3	10	15	49½	51	53½
GEC	360	18	25	30	6	16	19
(*368)	390	5	10½	16½	23½	34	36½
Hanson	180	11	15	18½	3	6½	10½
(*187½)	200	2½	6½	10	14	18	22
LASMO	180	14½	20½	24	7½	10	12½
(*184½)	200	6½	11½	15	20	21	24
Lucas	200	13	19½	23	5	8½	12½
(*208½)	220	4	10½	13½	16	19½	23½
Pilkington	210	10	16½	—	6½	12	—
(*212)	229	3	8½	—	18½	23½	—
Prudential	420	29½	41	47	8	15½	22
(*448½)	460	8	20	27½	29	36	42½
Redland	390	19½	26	31½	15½	22	26½
(*399½)	420	6½	13	19	36	40½	44½
R-Royce	200	21½	26½	31	3	7	9
(*219)	220	8½	15	20½	11	15½	18
Tesco	260	20	24½	28	4½	8½	13½
(*277)	280	7½	14	18	14	18	23
Vodafone	240	18	26½	31½	6	13	16
(*250½)	260	7½	16½	21½	15½	23	26
Williams	300	22½	24½	27	4½	6½	10½
(*318½)	330	5	9	12	22	23½	27

FT-SE INDEX (*3704½)

	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850
Calls						
Apr	111½	74	46	24	10½	4
May	134½	101	70½	48	30	16½
Jun	159½	128	96	73½	52	35
Jul	178½	147½	116½	93	69½	53½
Dec	244	—	185	—	136½	—
Puts						
Apr	19½	33½	54	82½	120½	164½
May	39	54½	75	102½	135	172½
Jun	59	77	96½	122	151	185
Jul	66½	85	105	131½	159	193½
Dec	110½	—	151	—	202	—

	Series	Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat	550	44½	54½	65½	11	20	23½
(*575)	600	18½	29	40½	35½	45½	48½
Amstrad	180	19½	26	28½	6½	10	11½
(*191)	200	9½	16	19	16½	19½	21½
Barclays	700	55½	68	77½	11½	21½	25½
(*734½)	750	29½	40	50½	32½	44½	48
Blue Circ	330	18½	25½	31	15	20	23½
(*340)	360	6½	13	18	34	37½	40½
Br Gas	220	16	18½	21	8	11	14½
(*231½)	240	5½	9	12	19½	22	26
Dixons	460	26	35	45	17	27	29½
(*463½)	500	10	18	27½	42	50	52
Forte	343	12½	16½	—	3	6	—
(*350)	373	1½	3½	—	23	24	—
Tarmac	120	5½	10½	12½	8½	11	13
(*120)	130	3	6½	8½	15	17	19
Hillsdwn	180	14½	16	18½	5½	9	11
(*191½)	200	4½	7	9½	18½	20½	22
Lonrho	200	20	23½	28½	5½	8½	11
(*211)	220	9	13½	18½	15	18½	20½
Sears	90	9	11½	12½	2	4	5½
(*97½)	100	3	6½	7½	7	9	10½
Thorn	1600	114½	140	164	24	50½	60½
(*1667½)	1700	58	84½	110	66	98½	107½
Tomkins	240	23½	27½	29½	3½	8	10
(*256)	260	11½	16	18½	10½	17½	19½
Lloyds TSB	292	33	—	—	4½	—	—
(*316½)	322	14½	—	—	15½	—	—

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	800	30	56	71½	11	24½	38
(*815½)	850	8½	32	47	39½	51	64½
HSBC	1000	24½	59	78½	27½	47½	63½
(*1021)	1050	7½	37½	57	61	76	92½
Reuter	700	23	45½	60	12½	28	37
(*706)	750	5	23	37	45½	56½	64½

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins	360	11	25	31½	9½	18½	25½
(*360)	390	2½	12½	19	31	37	43

	Series	Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Fisons	260	5	—	—	0½	—	—
(*269)	280	0½	—	—	19½	—	—

	Series	May			May		
Eastrn Gp	950	39½	—	—	0½	—	—
(*975)	1000	1½	—	—	25	—	—

	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	460	33	37½	44	13½	19	23½
(*478)	500	13½	17½	25	36½	41	45
Scot Pwr	330	34	39½	42½	4	8	10
(*356½)	360	14	20	25	12½	21	23

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 62899	Jun 96	3692.0	3712.0	3676.0	3701.0	12024
	Sep 96				3717.0	0
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3405	Jun 96	4320.0	4325.0	4320.0	4325.0	250
	Sep 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 319065	Jun 96	93.96	93.96	93.91	93.93	8424
	Sep 96	93.78	93.78	93.70	93.73	11079
	Dec 96	93.46	93.46	93.36	93.38	8631
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 0	Mar 96					
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1069547	Jun 96	96.72	96.77	96.72	96.73	24852
	Sep 96	96.61	96.65	96.61	96.61	20581
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 118900	Mar 96	106-02	106-05	105-19	105-19	299
	Jun 96	105-08	105-09	104-20	104-21	35436
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96	118.65	118.69	118.59	118.64	1353
	Sep 96	117.45	117.50	117.45	117.51	149
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 237479	Jun 96	95.88	96.00	95.62	95.65	111295
	Sep 96	94.93	95.00	94.83	94.80	50
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 21281	Jun 96	95.39	95.43	95.37	95.39	1578
	Sep 96	95.35	95.36	95.31	95.32	275
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 53608	Jun 96	98.18	98.21	98.17	98.19	2905
	Sep 96	98.07	98.08	98.05	98.06	1355
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 51897	Jun 96	108.75	108.92	108.53	108.56	29578
	Sep 96	108.15	108.15	108.15	108.01	1

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5½ Week fixed: 5¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5 29/32 ; 3 mth 5 27/32 . Sell: 2 mth 5 25/32 ; 3 mth 5 25/32 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	5 31/32-5⅞	5 29/32-5 13/16	5⅞-5 25/32	5⅞-5 13/16	
Sterling Money Rates:	6 1/16-6	6 1/16-6	6 1/16-6	6 1/16-6	6 11/16-6 5/16
Interbank:	6 1/16-6	6 1/16-6	6 1/16-6	6 1/16-6	6 11/16-6 5/16

Overnight: open 5¾, close 5½ .

Local Authority Deps:	5 31/32	n/a	6	6	6¼
Sterling CDs:	6-5 31/32	6-5 31/32	6-5 31/32	6-5 31/32	6¼-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.35	n/a	5.33	5.34	5.56
Building Society CDs:	6 1/16-5 31/32	6 1/16-5 31/32	6 1/16-5 31/32	6 1/16-5 31/32	6¼-6⅛

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £3,637m allotted: £800m: Bids: £98.56% received: 97%: Last week: £98.555% received: 80%: Avge rate: £5.7758% last wk £5.7886%: Next week: £800m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-5	5¼-5⅛	5 7/16-5 5/16	5 7/16-5 5/16	5-4
Deutschemark:	3 5/16-3 3/16	3⅜-3 3/16	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3½-2½
French Franc:	4⅛-3⅞	4 1/16-4	4 3/16-4 1/16	4 7/16-4 5/16	4½-3½
Swiss Franc:	2⅛-1⅞	1 15/16-1⅞	1⅞-1¾	1⅞-1¾	2-1
Yen:	⅝-½	½-⅜	⅝-½	11/16-9/16	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $397.30-397.60 Close: $397.30-397.80 High: $397.50-398.00
Low: $396.80-397.30 AM: $397.30 PM: $397.70
Krugerrand: $397.00-399.00 (£258.50-260.50)
Platinum: $412.25 (£268.85) Silver: $5.60 (£3.645) Palladium: $139.25 (£90.80)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 22	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5338-2.5426	2.5338-2.5371	⅝-½pr	1⅝-1½pr
Brussels	46.49-46.72	46.49-46.60	12-9pr	34-29pr
Copenhagen	8.7390-8.7780	8.7390-8.7620	1½-1pr	4¼-3¾pr
Dublin	0.9699-0.9757	0.9731-0.9757	9-6pr	24-19pr
Frankfurt	2.2635-2.2682	2.2635-2.2667	½-⅜pr	1½-1¼pr
Lisbon	233.99-235.12	233.99-234.61	¼-⅝ds	⅝-1⅛ds
Madrid	190.24-191.01	190.24-190.53	37-47ds	114-131ds
Milan	2395.3-2408.0	2395.3-2399.2	7-9ds	22-24ds
Montreal	2.0874-2.0919	2.0884-2.0914	0.22-0.14pr	0.39-0.28pr
New York	1.5336-1.5350	1.5336-1.5346	0.09-0.07pr	0.25-0.22pr
Oslo	9.8460-9.8750	9.8460-9.8610	1⅛-⅞pr	3¼-2¾pr
Paris	7.7650-7.7950	7.7650-7.7830	1⅛-1⅛pr	3½-3⅛pr
Stockholm	10.156-10.301	10.156-10.179	⅛-⅜ds	⅛-⅝ds
Tokyo	163.60-164.27	163.71-163.98	⅞-⅝pr	2½-2⅛pr
Vienna	15.917-15.981	15.917-15.944	⅝-⅜pr	1⅜-⅞pr
Zurich	1.8305-1.8387	1.8305-1.8333	⅝-½pr	1½-1⅜pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2866-1.2874
Austria	10.38-10.39
Belgium (Com)	30.35-30.37
Canada	1.3620-1.3625
Denmark	5.7050-5.7070
France	5.0690-5.0700
Germany	1.4771-1.4776
Hong Kong	7.7312-7.7322
Ireland	1.5790-1.5810
Italy	1563.75-1564.75
Japan	106.68-106.75
Malaysia	2.5440-2.5450
Netherlands	1.6533-1.6538
Norway	6.4240-6.4270
Portugal	152.67-152.77
Singapore	1.4093-1.4103
Spain	124.15-124.24
Sweden	6.6265-6.6365
Switzerland	1.1944-1.1949

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5345-1.5371
Australia dollar	1.9739-1.9761
Bahrain dinar	0.5725-0.5845
Brazil real*	1.5007-1.5048
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7070-0.7170
Finland markka	7.0250-7.1410
Greece drachma	367.75-374.75
Hong Kong dollar	11.8604-11.8674
India rupee	52.25-53.21
Indonesia rupiah	3551.00-3619.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4540-0.4640
Malaysia ringgit	3.9028-3.9061
New Zealand dollar	2.2316-2.2347
Pakistan rupee	52.86 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5250-5.6000
Singapore dollar	2.1620-2.1645
S Africa rand (com)	5.9680-6.0700
U A E dirham	5.5750-5.6900

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	1,400	Land Secs	938
ASDA Gp	5,900	Legal & Gn	1,600
Abbey Ntl	4,100	Lloyds TSB	9,100
Allied Dom	3,400	Marks Spr	4,200
Argos	575	NatWst Bk	2,600
Argyll Gp	3,200	Nat Grid	11,000
AB Foods	802	Nat Power	2,100
BAA	1,500	P & O	1,800
BAT Inds	6,400	Pearson	975
BOC	1,600	Pilkington	3,700
BP	10,000	PowerGen	2,800
BSkyB	741	Prudential	14,000
BTR	21,000	REXAM	4,600
BT	10,000	RMC	538
Bk of Scot	1,900	RTZ	2,700
Barclays	4,700	Rank Org	1,700
Bass	1,700	Reckitt Col	1,200
Blue Circle	647	Redland	1,400
Boots	1,400	Reed Intl	1,600
BAe	1,800	Rentokil	2,800
BA	3,900	Reuters	2,000
Brit Gas	14,000	Rolls Royce	6,100
Brit Steel	13,000	Royal Ins	810
Burmah Cstl	614	Ryl Bk Scot	2,300
Burton	1,600	Sainsbury	1,500
Cable Wire	7,000	Schroders	372
Cadbury	2,700	Scot & New	1,600
Carlton Cms	2,900	Scot Power	2,300
Cm Union	1,200	Svrn Trent	2,100
Cookson	4,500	Shell Trans	7,200
Courtaulds	1,600	Siebe	2,600
Dixons	1,200	SmKl Bch	4,600
Enterpr Oil	2,200	Smith Nph	4,200
For & Col IT	1,400	Smiths Inds	1,300
GKN	1,100	Sthern Elec	689
GRE	1,900	Std Chartd	3,800
GUS	1,100	Sun Allnce	2,500
Gen Acc	3,300	TI Gp	917
Gen Elec	3,600	Tate & Lyle	1,900
Glaxo Well	4,500	Tesco	2,800
Granada	3,800	Thames W	3,100
Grand Met	6,100	Thrn EMI	1,300
Greenalls	943	Tomkins	5,300
Guinness	211,000	Unilever	1,600
HSBC	8,000	United Utils	1,800
Hanson	8,500	Vodafone	9,600
ICI	1,900	Whitbread	1,100
Kingfisher	3,600	Wlms Hld	2,700
LASMO	5,200	Wolseley	3,100
Ladbroke	5,200	Zeneca	1,300

WALL STREET

	Mar 22 midday	Mar 21 close
AMP Inc	43	42⅞
AMR Corp	89½	90⅜
AT & T	61¼	61⅛
Abbott Labs	41	41⅛
Advanced Micro	17⅜	17⅜
Aetna Life	75⅝	75⅝
Ahmanson (HF)	24⅝	24⅝
Air Prod & Chem	56⅛	56
AirTouch Comm	31⅞	31⅝
Alberto-Culver B	40	39⅞
Albertson's	38⅜	38⅜
Alcan Aluminum	32	32⅛
Alco Standard	53⅞	54
Allied Signal	56⅞	56⅝
Alum Co of Am	62⅞	62⅞
Amax Gold Inc	6⅞	6⅞
Amerada Hess	53⅝	53⅞
Amer Brands	44⅞	44⅞
Amer El Power	42	42⅝
Amer Express	48⅞	48⅞
Amer Genl Corp	35⅞	35⅞
Amer Home Pr	101⅝	102⅛
Amer Intl	95⅛	96
Amer Stores	31	30⅞
Amer Standard	31⅛	30⅞
Ameritech	57⅞	57⅞
Amoco	72⅞	72
Anheuser-Busch	67⅞	67⅞
Apple Computer	25⅞	25⅛
Archer Daniels	18⅝	18⅝
Armco	5⅞	5⅞
Armstrng Wrld	63⅛	63
Asarco	34⅛	34⅛
Ashland Oil	39	39
Atl Richfield	114⅞	113⅝
Auto Data Pro	39⅞	40⅞
Avery Dennison	55⅝	56
Avon Products	86⅞	86⅞
Baker Hughes	29	29⅞
Baltim Gas & El	27⅝	27⅞
Banc One	35⅝	35⅞
BankAmerica	74⅝	74⅝
Bank of NY	51⅛	51⅝
Bankers Tr NY	71⅝	72
Barnett Banks	61⅞	61⅞
Bausch & Lomb	37⅞	38⅞
Baxter Intl	46⅞	45⅞
Bectn Dicknsn	81⅝	80⅞
Bell Atlantic	64⅞	64⅞
Bell Industries	21⅛	21⅛
BellSouth	39	39⅝
Black & Decker	36⅞	36⅞
Block (H&R)	37⅞	36⅞
Boeing	87⅞	87⅞
Boise Cascade	40⅞	41⅛
Bristol Myrs Sq	85⅛	86⅞
Browning Ferris	30⅞	29⅞
Brunswick	23⅞	23⅞
Burlington Nthn	85⅝	84
CMS Energy Corp	30	29⅞
CNA Financial	112⅞	112⅝
CPC Intl	69⅝	69⅞
CSX	47⅞	46⅞
Campbell Soup	63⅞	63⅞
Can Pacific	20	20⅞
Carolina Pwr	36⅞	36⅞
Caterpillar	69⅞	70
Central & SW	27⅞	27⅝
Champion Intl	44	46
Chase Manhat	74⅝	73⅞
Chemical Bk	71⅝	71
Chevron Corp	55⅝	55⅝
Chrysler	63⅛	63⅝
Chubb Corp	96⅞	97⅝
Cigna Corp	117⅞	116⅝
Citicorp	79	78⅞
Clorox	87⅞	87⅝
Coastal Corp	39⅞	39⅝
Coca Cola	83⅝	83⅞
Colgate-Palmolive	80⅞	80
Columbia Gas	44⅛	44
ColumbiaHCA	55	54⅞
Compaq Comp	37⅞	38
Comp Ass Intl	69⅞	70⅞
Conagra	42⅞	43
Conrail	75⅝	75⅞
Cons Edison	31⅛	31⅛
Cons Nat Gas	43⅞	43⅞
Cooper Inds	38⅞	38⅞
Corestates	42⅝	42⅞
Corning Inc	35⅞	34⅞
Crown Cork	40⅞	40⅞
Dana Corp	32⅞	32⅞
Dayton Hudson	85⅞	85⅝
Deere	41⅛	41⅛
Delta Air Lines	80	79⅝
Deluxe Corp	31⅛	31⅛
Digital Equip	53⅛	53⅛
Dillard Dept St	36⅞	36
Disney (Walt)	64⅞	64⅝
Dominion Res	40⅞	40⅞
Donelley (RR)	36	35⅞
Dover Corp	47	47
Dow Chemical	87	87⅞
Dow Jones	40⅞	40⅞
Dresser	29⅞	29⅞
Duke Power	50⅞	50⅝
Dun & Bradstreet	61⅛	61
Du Pont	83⅝	83⅝
Eastman Chem	73	72⅞

	Mar 22 midday	Mar 21 close
Eastman Kodak	73⅛	73
Eaton Corp	61	60⅞
Edison Int	17⅞	17⅞
Emerson Elec	81⅛	80⅞
Engelhard Corp	23⅞	23⅛
Enron Corp	36⅞	36⅝
Entergy	27⅞	27⅞
Ethyl Corp	10⅝	10⅞
Exxon	81⅝	80⅞
FMC Corp	75⅝	75⅝
FPL Group	44⅞	44⅞
Federal Express	70⅞	70⅞
Fed Nat Mtge	32⅞	32⅞
First Interstate	166	165
First Union Rlty	7⅞	7⅞
Fleet Finl Grp	40⅞	39⅞
Fluor Corp	69	69⅞
Ford Motor	33⅞	33⅞
GTE Corp	44⅝	44⅛
Gannett	69⅞	69⅞
Gap Inc Del	57⅛	57⅞
Gen Dynamics	59⅝	60⅛
Gen Electric	77⅝	77⅝
Gen Mills	58⅞	59⅝
Gen Motors	54⅛	53⅝
Gen Reinsurance	147	146⅞
Gen Signal	36⅞	36⅞
Genuine Parts	46⅝	44⅞
Georgia Pac	67⅝	68
Gillette	53	52⅞
Glaxo Wellc ADR	25⅞	25⅞
Goodrich (BF)	79⅞	78⅞
Goodyear Tire	51⅞	52
Grace (W&R)	76⅞	77
Grt Atl Pac Tea	29⅞	29⅞
Great Wstn Fin	23⅛	23⅛
Halliburton	57⅞	57⅞
Harcourt General	45⅞	45⅝
Heinz (HJ)	34	34
Hercules	62⅞	62⅞
Hershey Foods	76⅞	76⅞
Hewlett Packard	95⅞	94⅞
Hilton Hotels	97⅞	92⅞
Home Depot	49	48⅝
Homestake Mng	18⅞	18⅞
Honeywell	56⅞	56⅞
Household Intl	68	68⅝
Houston Inds	22⅞	22⅝
Humana	25	25⅞
ITT Corp	57⅞	58⅝
Illinois Tool	68	67⅞
Illinova	28	28⅛
INCO	33⅝	34⅞
Ingersoll Rand	42	41⅝
Inland Steel	24⅞	24⅞
Intel Corp	55⅞	55⅞
IBM	114⅞	114⅞
Intl Flav & Fr	49⅞	49⅞
Intl Paper	38⅞	38⅞
James River Va	27⅞	27⅞
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	94⅞	94⅝
Kellogg	76⅞	76⅞
Kerr-McGee	64⅝	65⅞
Kimberly-Clark	78⅞	78⅞
Kmart	9⅞	9⅞
Knight-Ridder	69⅞	70⅞
Lilly (Eli)	64⅞	66⅞
Limited Inc	18⅞	19
Lincoln Nat	52	51⅞
Litton	46⅞	47
Liz Claiborne	35	35
Lockheed Martin	78	77⅞
Louisiana Pac	24	24⅞
MCI Comm	30	30
Marriott Int	49⅞	49⅞
Marsh & McLnn	94⅞	94⅞
Masco Corp	29⅝	29⅞
May Dept St	50⅞	49⅞
Maytag Corp	21⅛	21⅛
McDonalds	50⅝	50⅞
McDonnell D	95⅞	95⅝
McGraw Hill	89⅝	89⅝
Mead Corp	52⅞	52⅞
Medtronic	57⅞	58⅛
Mellon Bk	55	55
Melville Corp	33⅝	33⅛
Merck Inc	63⅞	65⅝
Merrill Lynch	58⅝	58⅞
Microsoft	100⅞	100⅞
Minnesota Mine	64⅞	64⅞
Mobil Corp	114⅞	114⅞
Monsanto	158⅝	157⅝
Morgan (JP)	83⅛	83⅞
Motorola Inc	54⅞	54⅝
Natl Semi	14⅞	14⅞
Natl Service Ind	35	33⅞
Navistar Inc	10⅝	11
NY Times A	29⅞	27⅝
Newmont Mng	53⅝	53⅞
Niag Mohawk	6⅞	6⅞
Nike B	82⅞	80⅝
NL Industries	13⅝	14
Noram Energy	9⅞	9
Nordstrom	48⅞	48⅝
Norfolk Sthrn	86⅞	85⅞
Nthn State Pwr	49⅞	49
Norwest Corp	34⅞	34⅞
Nynex Corp	52⅞	52
Occidental Pet	25⅝	25
Ohio Edison	22⅞	22⅞

	Mar 22 midday	Mar 21 close
Oracle	47⅞	48⅝
Oryx Energy Co	12⅞	12⅝
Owens Corning	41⅞	41⅝
PHH Corp	53⅞	52⅞
PPG Industries	48⅞	48
PNC Bank	30	29⅞
PP&L Res	24⅞	24
Paccar Inc	50⅞	50⅞
Pacificorp	20⅞	20⅝
Pac Enterprises	26⅞	26⅞
Pac Gas & Elect	25⅞	25⅝
Pac Telesis	27⅝	27⅝
Pall Corp	27⅝	27⅝
Panhandle East	30⅞	29⅝
Parker Hannifin	38⅞	39
Peco Energy	26⅞	26⅞
Penney (JC)	51⅝	50⅞
Pennzoil	38⅞	39
Pepsico	63⅝	63⅞
Pfizer	67⅞	66⅞
Pharm & Upjhn	41⅞	42⅝
Phelps Dodge	67⅝	67⅞
Philip Morris	87⅝	87⅝
Phillips Pet	39	39⅝
Pitney Bowes	48⅞	47⅞
Polaroid	41⅝	41⅝
PriceCostco	18⅝	18⅝
Procter & Gmbl	87⅝	87⅝
Providian	44⅝	43⅞
Pub Serv E & G	26⅝	26⅝
Quaker Oats	34⅝	34⅞
Ralston Purina	67⅞	67⅝
Raychem Corp	67	66⅞
Raytheon	53⅝	53⅝
Reebok Intl	29	29⅞
Reynolds Metals	58⅞	58⅞
Rockwell Intl	60⅝	59⅞
Rohm & Haas	67⅞	67⅝
Royal Dutch	140⅞	139
Rubbermaid	29⅞	29⅞
SBC Comms	53⅞	53⅝
Safeco Corp	34⅞	34⅞
St Paul's Cos	56⅞	55⅝
Salomon Inc	37⅞	38
Sara Lee Corp	32⅞	32⅝
Schering Plough	60⅞	60⅝
Schlumberger	77⅞	77⅞
Seagram	32⅞	32⅞
Sears Roebuck	51⅞	51⅞
Shell Trans	79⅞	79⅝
Sherwin Wlms	43⅞	43⅞
Skyline Corp	23⅞	23⅞
Snap-On-Tools	46⅞	46⅞
Southern Co	23⅝	23⅞
Sprint Corp	37⅞	36⅝
Stanley Works	56	55⅞
Sun Company	28⅞	28⅞
Sun Microsys	44⅞	45⅞
Suntrust	71⅝	71⅝
Supervalu	31⅞	32
Sysco Corp	33⅞	33⅝
TRW Inc	89⅞	89⅝
TCC Inds	2⅞	2⅞
Tandem Comp	9	9
Tandy Corp	45⅞	45⅞
Teledyne	29	29⅝
Temple Inland	47⅞	46⅞
Tenneco	56	56⅞
Texaco	84⅝	84⅝
Texas Inst	50⅞	51⅞
Texas Utilities	41⅞	41⅝
Textron	83⅞	83⅞
Time Warner	41⅞	42
Times-Mirror A	37⅞	38⅝
Timken	46⅞	46⅞
Torchmark	45⅞	45⅞
Toys R Us	27⅞	27⅞
Transamerica	76⅞	76⅝
Travelers	64⅞	64⅞
Tribune	67	66⅞
Tyco Labs	35⅞	36⅞
UST Inc	32⅞	32
UAL	213⅝	213
US Inds	19⅞	20⅞
USX Marathon	19	19⅞
Unicom	27⅞	28⅞
Unilever NV	138⅞	137⅞
Union Camp	50	50⅞
Union Carbide	48⅞	47⅝
Union Pacific	71⅞	71
Unisys Corp	6	6
USAIR Group	19⅞	19⅝
USF&G Corp	15⅞	15⅝
US Life	30⅞	29⅝
United Tech	114⅞	114⅞
Unocal Corp	32⅞	32⅝
VF Corp	55⅞	54⅝
WMX Tech	31	30⅞
Wal-Mart Stores	23⅝	23⅞
Warner-Lambert	104⅞	105⅞
Wells Fargo	248⅞	247⅞
Westinghouse El	19	19
Weyerhaeuser	46⅝	47
Whirlpool	57⅞	58⅝
Whitman	24⅞	24⅝
Winn Dixie	35⅞	35⅞
Woolworth	15⅞	15⅞
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	60⅝	61
Xerox	130⅞	130⅞
Yellow Corp	12⅞	11⅞

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TESSA DILEMMA, 34

Fixed-rate Tessa 2 may not look so good in five years

WEEKEND
MONEY

VOTES FIGHT 33

Heirs of N&P savers seek bonus share

Homeowners face summer of subsidence

Marianne Curphey and **Sara McConnell** say insurers are taking no chances this year

Insurers are giving warning that thousands of homeowners face another summer of subsidence and structural damage because the winter has not been wet enough to replace moisture in clay soil, common in the South East.

The large insurers have each paid about £20 million to policyholders whose houses shifted and cracked when the earth around the foundations dried out in the heat wave.

"The winter has just not been wet enough. Unless we get a lot more rain subsidence claims are likely to be high again this year," said David Prosser, chief executive of Legal & General.

Ian Brett-Pitt, subsidence claims manager at Direct Line, agreed. "We could see it happening again this summer. During last year's drought the worst affected areas were Southampton, parts of Hampshire, north London, Guildford, Kent, the Midlands, Manchester and Yorkshire. People with homes built on clay are worst affected.

"The other problem is caused by trees: conifers, poplars, flowering cherry trees and willows are the worst. A large tree can take 10.000 gallons of water out of the soil every year — that is equivalent to a full tanker. Unfortunately, people plant trees close to their homes and use conifers as a screen, with the result that they upset the water balance in the soil under the house. "People planning to plant trees in the Easter holidays should think carefully about the effect this will have on their house foundations." Structural engineers, who in the past used underpinning as the solution to all subsidence problems, are now more likely to monitor earth movements before taking action.

Even when a tree has been proved to be the culprit, the solution is not always simple. "Although trees can be pruned and managed to reduce their demand for water, some have preservation orders on them and we cannot touch them." Mr Brett-Pitt said.

A large tree can use 10,000 gallons of water a year

Other causes of subsidence are unrelated to hot weather. Underground pipes leaking or poor drainage beneath the house can cause the soil to become waterlogged and to sink. This is particularly prevalent in Manchester. In parts of London, light industry formerly removed large quantities of water from the soil.

Homeowners in the most subsidence-prone areas face paying up to three times the going rate for their buildings insurance and a long search for cover. Some insurers are "redlining" certain areas where they refuse cover altogether, while others demand that homeowners commission expensive structural engineers' reports before getting cover.

Insurers are stepping up their use of sophisticated geological data which allow them to pinpoint the riskiest areas. Premiums are still based on postcodes, but insurers now use the first letter of the second part of postcodes as well as the first part, which they started using in 1991. This narrows the number of houses down to in each area to about 1,500. Some use the whole postcode, targeting just a few homes. Few insueres now raise buildings premiums across the board as they used to, targeting instead the most risky areas within postcodes for rises.

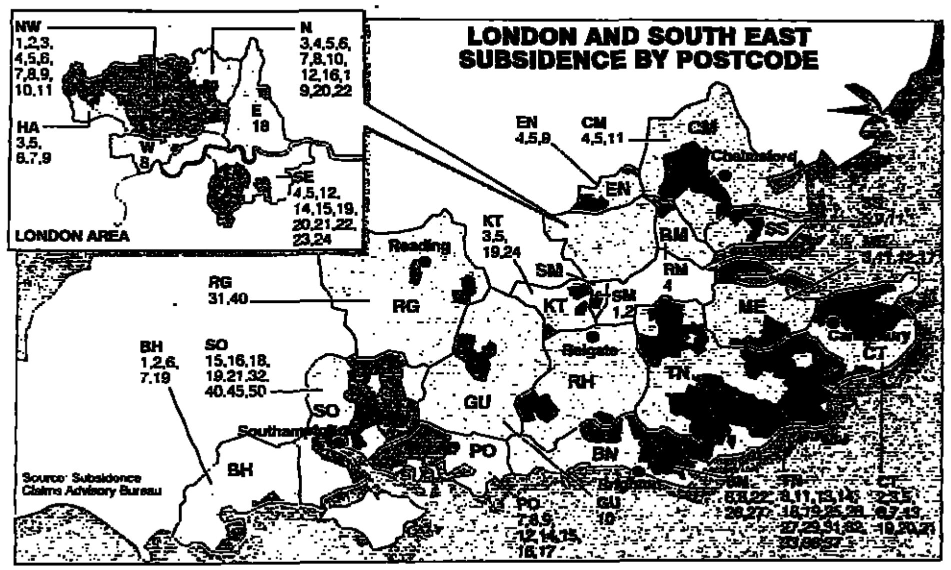
This targeting has taken some households out of high-risk categories, cutting their premiums substantially. Brian Bundy, branch director at C. E. Heath, the broker, said: "Some of our clients have had their premiums cut by half." But the risky remainder will see rises in premiums and long searches for cover. "I know some insurers are redlining because I have clients who have tried and been told they can't get insurance in their area," said Mr Bundy.

Robert Hooker of the Subsidence Claims Advisory Bureau said: "There are constantly more areas where there is redlining". No insurer will admit to redlining of whole areas but they admit there are certain properties they do not want to cover. Sellers trying to move as the housing market improves are finding their properties blighted by valuers pointing out cracks and suggesting they could besubsidence.

In a majority of cases, the cracks will be harmless. But by then, prospective buyers will have gone elsewhere rather than be forced to spend several hundred pounds on a structural survey to satisfy their mortgage lender.

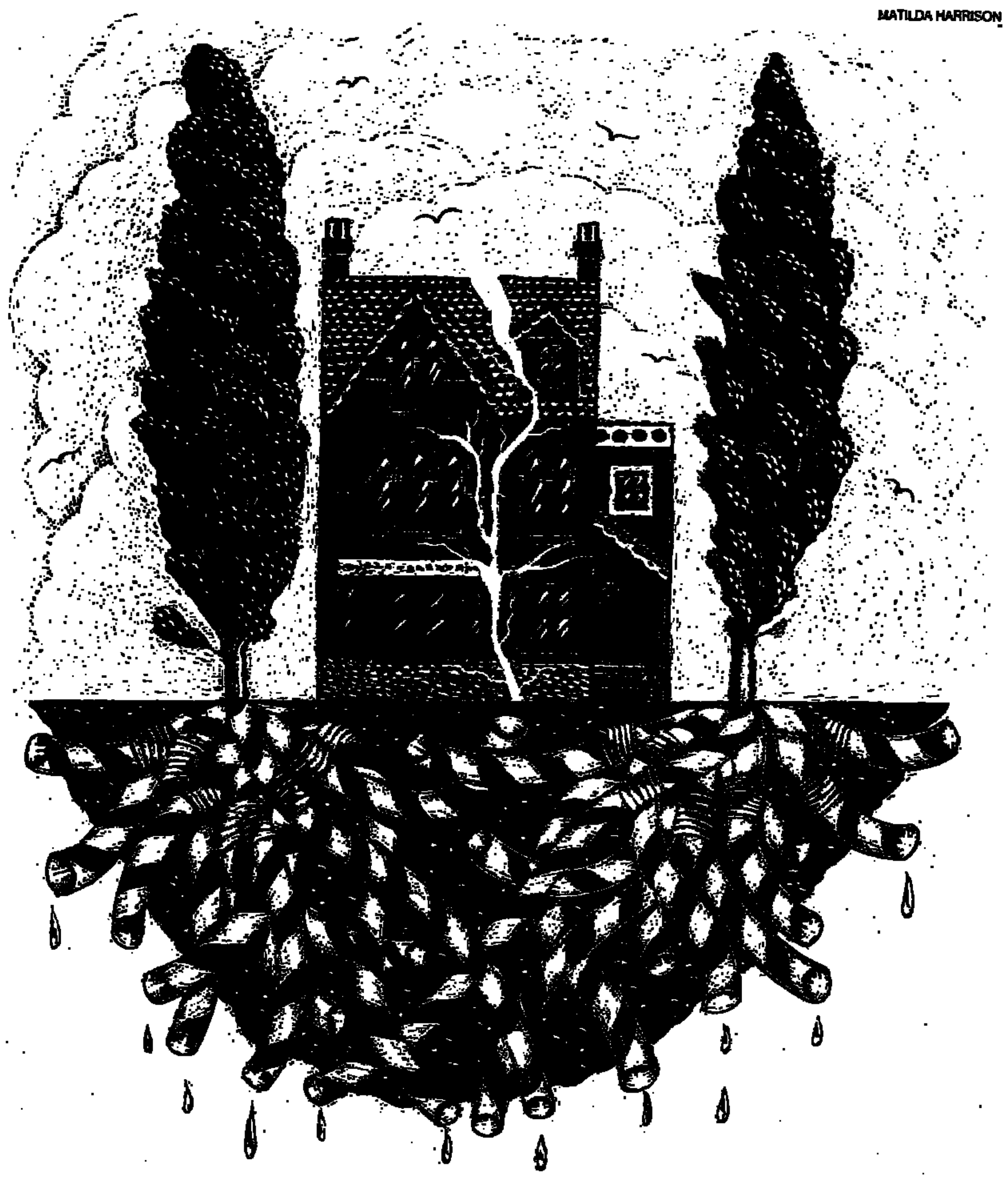
Valuers are desperate to avoid being sued by lenders for not noticing structural defects. Lenders took action against a number of surveyors in the early 1990s, claiming they had overvalued properties, causing lenders losses. Mr Bundy said: "Surveyors are very careful. They see a crack and see a possible subsidence claim. Ten years ago they wouldn't have worried." Geoff Holden of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said valuers would not immediately diagnose subsidence but would tell a buyer to take further advice.

☐ The Subsidence Claims Advisory Bureau, (01424) 733727, has a brochure and cassette, *Subsidence. Insurance and Your Home*.


LONDON AND SOUTH EAST SUBSIDENCE BY POSTCODE
NW 1,2,3, 4,5,6, 7,8,9, 10,11
N 3,4,5,6, 7,8,10, 12,16,1 9,20,22
E 18
HA 3,5, 6,7,9
W 8
SE 4,5,12, 14,15,19, 20,21,22, 23,24
LONDON AREA
EN 4,5,9
CM 4,5,11
CM
Chelmsford
EN
KT 3,5, 19,24
Reading
RG 31,40
RG
SM
KT
SM 1,2
RM
RM 4
SS
ME
ME 3,11,12,17
Canterbury
CT
Reigate
RH
TN
BH 1,2,6, 7,19
SO 15,16,18, 19,21,32, 40,45,50
SO
GU
Southampton
PO
BN
BH
Brighton
PO 7,8,9, 12,14,15, 16,17
GU 10
BN 8,9,22, 26,27
TN 8,11,13,14, 18,19,25,26, 27,29,31,32, 33,36,37
CT 2,3,5, 6,7,13, 19,20,21
Source: Subsidence Claims Advisory Bureau

Concrete and clay: dark patches show some of the worst areas for subsidence in the South East

MATILDA HARRISON



When the tree just had to go

Last August, as reported by *The Times*, Mary Burriss came back from holiday to find a 5-ft crack in one of the interior walls of her house. The surveyor sent by Pearl, her insurer, identified a much-loved tree near the house as the culprit (Sara McConnell writes).

Two weeks ago, the tree was felled, much to Mrs Burriss's regret. "It was such a lovely tree." she said. But if the surveyor's diagnosis proves right, the tree hid a destructive streak. Mrs Burriss's daughter, Roisin McManus, said the original crack has since got wider and bigger and spread from one corner of the room to the other.

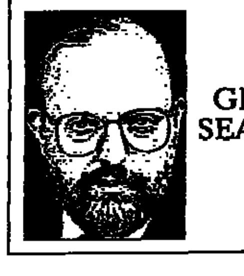
Now the family is waiting for Pearl to decide what to do next. The hope is that the problem will solve itself as rainfall restores moisture removed by the tree and the earth settles. The prospect of underpinning fills Mrs McManus with alarm. "If they suggest underpinning, my mother will be hysterical", she said.

Mary Burriss: loved the tree

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Carried away by water bids

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Shareholders in water companies may feel bemused. In Leeds, Trevor Newton, accountant and managing director of Yorkshire Water, has fallen on his sword ahead of a public inquiry set up by the company to flagellate itself and seek absolution. Yet the shares boom. In London, Mike Hoffman, dynamic chief executive of Thames Water, left the industry suddenly on Thursday, drawing a line under Thames's long, disastrous foray into engineering construction. The shares rose. Further West, Severn Trent joined Wessex in a race to take over South West, perennial poor relation of the ten privatised groups.

Bemused as we may be, these seemingly unconnected events are all part of a process started in 1989, in guidance given to the companies at privatisation. If they were competent, they were guaranteed decent returns for at least five years, to persuade investors to sink £30 billion to bring our creaking water and sewage system up to scratch. Then water would revert to beng dull and heavily regulated, so they better diversify to give some "medium-term" fizz.

Thames jumped in first, buying PWT, a big but unprofitable international water contractor, for a song. Anglian and Yorkshire were highly cautious. But Sir Gordon Jones, Yorkshire's retiring chairman, knighted for his patient skill in leading the industry to privatisation, later revealed that his board team had to devote a third of its time to diversification, a third to regulators and just a third actually to run the utility. This was typical. Creative openings in operating and financing the utilities turned out to be a lot bigger than expected. Diversification was often a costly failure. Finance directors floated to the top. Empire builders from outside fell like ninepins, from Northumbrian via North West to Severn Trent, where John Bellak, its engaging but prickly chairman, was bagged by City critics after an expensive move into solid waste. Mr Hoffman turned his zeal back to the core, scoring a success with the Thames ring main, but those loss-breeding bad buys kept coming back to haunt him. Mr Newton, a master of the regulatory game, was complacent about the basics in an area normally cushioned by high rainfall.

A new generation of water bosses, plus a few canny originals, learnt crucial lessons at the feet of Ian Byatt, their regulator. Their main asset is skill at running utilities. That embraces innovative solutions to sewage problems, but also transferable skills in billing, service, information technology, cost-cutting and, not least, relations with customers of a local monopoly.

Brussels has imposed more investment, extending growth potential. Most drastically, however, expiry of golden shares has transferred power to grasping City fund managers, upsetting the balance between investors, regulators and customers. To satisfy all, big financial risks have to be taken, gearing up with debt. Only Wessex was fully prepared, focusing effort on its utility and local relations, while bringing in a big American partner to finance expansion into waste. Others are catching up. Welsh, a quick learner, and North West have bought local power companies.

People in the South West were badly served by privatisation. Relatively few locals had to pay dearly to cure water scarcities and leagues of dirty beaches for the benefit of summer vistors. A political drive to stem soaring prices trimmed investment at the last review. So Wessex and North West have much to offer: price cuts to locals, faster beach-cleaning to Surfers against Sewage.

They present Mr Byatt with a dilemma; he had set his heart against mergers among the ten. If he bends for the sake of Cornish folk, there will be others. Thames, under a caretaker regime, will court the City with cash to fend off adjacent French giant Générale des Eaux, which might also eye Southern. Takeover fever is heady for investors. But don't be carried away. Greater risk, and more stifling regulation under an ambitious new denizen of Ofwat, may be round the corner.

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Karen Zagor on market history and forecasts for the coming years

All smiles: After the euphoria of John Major's election win in April 1992, disillusionment quickly set in, culminating in Norman Lamont pulling Britain out of the ERM in September

A good time to take stock of the equity phenomenon

The recent gyrations on Wall Street, and subsequent queasiness in London, have shaken investors out of their pleasant slumber after a year in which it seemed that equities could only go higher. The renewed instability offers a good opportunity for investors to pause to consider how equity markets have moved during the Nineties and where they are expected to go by the end of the century.

The recent market blip may be unsettling, but the losses were insignificant in comparison with the events of October 1987 when the Dow Jones industrial average, the main US market index, dropped 508 points or 22.6 per cent in one day, triggering a 10 per cent fall in the value of shares on the London Stock Exchange. Indeed, the 1980s were a decade of dramatic rises and falls as markets adjusted to an incredible boom, followed by recession, in the United States and Europe. The 1990s, in contrast, have proved calmer, so far.

The decade started on a dull note. At the beginning of January 1990, the FT-SE 100 was at 2,463.7, while the Dow Jones industrial average started the decade at 2,809.73. During the year, the dollar suffered a large loss in value, putting pressure on share prices around the world. The FT-Actuaries world index, which monitors world share prices, dropped more than 19 per cent in 1990, caused largely by the collapse of Tokyo, which had briefly been the world's biggest stock market. The FT-Actuaries all-share index fell 1.5 per cent. In the United States, the Dow Jones industrial average lost 4.3 per cent.

The beginning of 1991 brought the Gulf War, which proved a turning point for markets. After the depression caused by the invasion of Kuwait, the quick Allied victory injected a taste of much-needed optimism. By late summer, both the FTSE 100 and the Dow Jones industrial average had inched back to their pre-1987-crash levels.

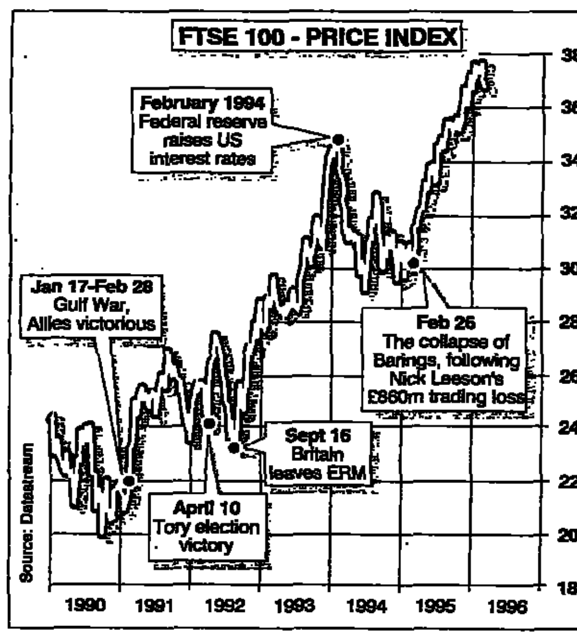
Despite steady declines through the end of the year, both indices ended 1991 much higher than they started.

Spring of 1992 brought concern that a Labour government would harm investors and big business alike. But April 1992 brought an unexpected electoral victory for John Major, and the markets responded by rising steadily through June before falling back in late summer, partly over concern about ERM, which was stopping the Government expanding the economy out of recession.

In September, Norman Lamont took Britain out of ERM and equities posted steady gains through 1993 and into February 1994, when the FTSE 100 topped 3,500 to set a record high, setting the pinnacle on a three-year run.

Shortly thereafter sentiment weakened when the Federal Reserve raised interest rates in the US, sending the Dow tumbling 96 points and the FT-SE 100 down 56. During most of 1994, buyers boycotted the market. By June the market had lost about 18 per cent of its value and the FT-SE 100 ended the year below 3,100.

The Kobe earthquake in Japan set 1995 off to a sober start. World markets were rocked amid fear that the earthquake would harm the Japanese economy. Former Barings trader Nick Leeson's misdeeds wiped billions off world markets in February on news of the Barings collapse. But the negative impact was offset by a flurry of takeover bids at home and a strong performance by the technology sector in the US which helped to end the year with an equity market rally.



Source: Datastream

As a result, UK equities started 1996 at their highest prices, in real terms, since records maintained by Barclays de Zoete Wedd began in 1919. The recent market swings have taken some of the value out of the market, but prices are still very high. Investing in a strong market can be dangerous. If the market takes a tumble, it can take years for investors to break even, let alone make a profit from their investment.

Those who invested in 1968, the peak year before 1993, had to wait 25 years before share prices improved in real terms. On the other hand, if the general trend is upwards then savers would do well to continue to put money in regular amounts into shares.

So what do analysts expect of the market in the coming years? Market bulls expect it to continue to be supported by savers looking for long-term investments. With interest rates at exceedingly low levels, they expect the money to keep pouring into the market.

The accepted wisdom is that equities offer the best long-term home for savings. According to BZW, £100 invested in equities in 1945 with dividends reinvested net of basic rate tax would have grown to £21,814 at the end of 1995. The equivalent building society fund would be worth £10,040.

But some are starting to question whether this trend will continue. Robin Aspinall, chief economist at Panmure Gordon, says: "We've had thirty years or more of the cult of the equity. The outperformance of the equity market in that time was phenomenal, driven by the amount of money pouring into the market which distorted valuations. Now we are in a decade of transition and are marking time while the valuations have a chance to return to more reasonable levels, with the gap between gilts and equities narrowing."

Joe Rooney, global equities manager at Lehman Brothers, is more positive about the US market than the UK, although US equities have rallied more than their UK counterparts in recent years.

"The fundamentals in the US are good. Inflation is low and companies are generating good levels of profitability and retaining a good deal of that profitability within the company to generate future earning growth, so the market is not looking excessively priced," he says.

Mr Rooney believes the UK market looks heavily priced because British companies are not investing enough to safeguard their future profitability, while at the same time paying shareholders very high dividends. "If you took a point four years out, the probablity is that the UK market will be lower than it is today," he says.

Allison Southey, global strategist at Nomura, believes that "in the next 15 years the overall attitude towards inflation will change and we will embrace it as a way to quash other problems, such as high unemployment. In the long term that will not be good for equities." It would be even worse for fixed interest investments.

These bearish sentiments do not mean that private investors should panic about their equity investments. It is, of course, quite possible that the bears will be proved wrong and equities will go from strength to strength. But this might be a good time to look very carefully at your portfolio, and perhaps to consider geographic diversification.

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Ins and outs of APR can baffle any borrower

Pity poor, hapless APR. Designed to clear up the confusion over lending rates, it has failed to keep up with the cut and thrust of today's credit card, mortgage and personal loan markets and is itself now accused of being confusing.

Q What is annual percentage rate (APR)?

A Annual Percentage Rate is the compulsory measure of the cost of credit. It includes interest plus any other charges that consumers have to pay. It is meant to enable consumers to compare the true cost of credit, but, with changes in products, there are now many loopholes in APR rules.

Q How do the credit card issuers calculate APR?

A Credit card issuers use a formula to calculate APR. It takes account of compound interest (or interest charged on interest) each month for a year.

However, APR regulations pre-date the introduction of an annual fee, which has caused something of a mathematical headache.

The annual fee has to be converted into a percentage to allow it to be incorporated into an APR and that, says the industry's Credit Card Research Group, is an artificial calculation.

Other blips include disagreement among lenders as to whether an interest-free period (or the lack of one) should be included in the APR and disagreement about the credit limit at which an APR is calculated.

In 1992, all credit card issuers voluntarily agreed to use the same credit limit, of £1,000. However, the Co-operative uses a limit of £3,000 on its low-interest Gold Card.

That lessens the impact of the £120 annual fee, since the more you borrow, the less the fee works out as a percentage. Similarly, American Express, which charges a £20 fee after the first year, quotes on a limit of £2,000.

Lenders say that borrowers should look at the monthly rate. However, be warned that 1.67 per cent a month sounds small, but, on an outstanding balance, can add up to more than 20 per cent a year.

It is best to think in terms of pounds and pence: the "cost of borrowing". Simply ask each lender how much it will cost you to borrow £1,000 over a year.

Q The APR on mortgages seems very low. Is this right?

A The Consumers' Association says that annual percentage rates on mortgages are "detached from reality". There are now many mortgages on offer with low fixed or discounted rates in the early years, but the quoted APR will be misleading.

It will be artificially low because it has to be calculated as if the low rate applied for the entire mortgage term. In fact, once the fixed term ends, you will pay the much higher variable rate for the rest of the life of the mortgage. The Consumers' Association also claims that lenders leave out fees such as the mortgage indemnity guarantee.

Similarly, with endowment mortgages, the APR calculation will not include the cost of the endowment premiums because they are not paid to the mortgage lender.

Since the APR does not tell you the full story, it is better for borrowers to look at the actual monthly cost, both now and at the end of the discounted or fixed-rate period.

Q How do lenders calculate the APRs on overdrafts and personal loans?

A Bank overdrafts need careful watching. Calculation of the APR is not set by law, as it is for most other kinds of credit, and lenders tend to quote an effective annual rate — EAR — which does not include transaction charges levied for going into the red or those letters that the bank sends you. Lenders can also omit fees from their APR calculations.

The APR on personal loans should, in contrast, be a useful guide since the size of the debt and its length are fixed from the outset.

However, the increasing popularity of payment protection insurance has muddied the waters. When insurance is compulsory, the APR should reflect the cost. If, however, it is simply available or recommended, the cost can be excluded from the APR.

The redemption penalty for paying off a loan early will also not be included in the APR.

Q Will the method of calculation of APRs now be changed?

A Not in the short term. Two years ago, the Office of Fair Trading published a report on the Consumer Credit Act.

It included a specific recommendation that there be changes to the way in which APRs are calculated and disclosed to improve their usefulness for comparing credit terms. That has not been acted upon by the Government.

However the European Union is currently looking at proposals for a common method of calculating APRs.

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Revenue has eye on £17bn handouts

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

The Inland Revenue has this week pronounced on the taxation of building society takeover and conversion payouts which will enrich the nation to the tune of £17 billion this year and next.

The recipients of this bounty probably hoped that the topic of tax would not be raised. They will be disappointed to learn that, not only will such distributions be taxable, but also that the rules are less than straightforward. Thoroughly confusing would be one description for the statement from the Revenue, a body, you will remember, supposedly engaged in the simplication of all its regulations.

Three different rules and two different kinds of tax will apply to the windfalls being given to savers and borrowers. Why such a miscellany should be necessary is a mystery. Yesterday accountants searching for reasons could supply none.

If your society merges with another and you receive cash, this will be subject to income tax. However, if your society is taken over, or converts into a bank, capital gains tax will be payable on the cash you pocket, should your gains exceed your annual exemption of £6,000 (£6,300 from April). If, instead, you get a package of free shares, there may also be a capital gains bill. But only if you sell the shares.

This means that thousands will have tax to pay on their slice of the £1.8 billion Cheltenham & Gloucester takeover money: one point that the Inland Revenue manages to make almost clear. Members of the Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and National & Provincial can breathe again, provided they do not sell their shares.

Members of other societies which may, in the future, merge with their fellows will be less pleased to see their reward reduced by tax. They may press instead for a takeover which will give them tax-free cash or shares, as few individuals make gains of more than their exemption.

But their efforts may be in vain, after another Government announcement of the week. The Building Societies Bill, published on Monday, proposes to allow societies that wish to merge to ring-fence themselves against bids. Deloitte & Touche will be one of the accountancy firms pressing for clarification of the payout taxation rules. The Revenue will, we hope, take less time about this task than over its deliberations on another type of building society payment. For several years, societies and other lenders have been offering cashbacks to give their mortgages marketing allure.

The Inland Revenue has been repeatedly asked whether these payments (which can be as high as £10,000) were subject to capital gains tax. No firm answer was given.

Earlier this month, some societies were still of the view that the cash would not be taxable, if spent on sofas in Habitat, say, rather than on a new five door saloon.

Now we learn that cashbacks are, after all, not to be taxed, either as income or capital gains. There is just one question. Why did it take so long?

Fight for voting rights by heirs of N&P savers

An advertising campaign is under way, urging the 1.4 million members of the National & Provincial to give their assent to the Abbey National's £1.3 billion takeover of their society. But in the last few days a group of N&P savers has found that it is not entitled to vote in next month's poll, although it holds share accounts with voting rights, opened years before cut-off dates for takeover benefits.

The accounts qualify only for the fixed distribution of £500 worth of Abbey National free shares. They are excluded from the variable distribution, worth as much as £4,250, the reward for long-term savers.

Ian Ferguson, a consulting actuary from Cheltenham, is one of this disenfranchised set of savers, the "successors", or heirs of deceased N&P investors. Their situation is the result of a controversial clause in the Building Societies Act that says only savers of two years' standing with a society may benefit from takeover or conversion windfalls. "Only members who survive until the vesting date, the day the deal is completed, can receive benefits as two-year savers," said the N&P.

But, as other building society conversion and takeover deals show, the two-year rule is open to interpretation. The payout to the N&P successors is itself a compromise reached after what the N&P calls "long conversations" between the N&P and the Building Societies Commission, the watchdog. Mr Ferguson, however, believes this ruling deprives his father's £20,000 estate of about £750 worth of benefits he had earned as a long-time saver with the society.

Mr Ferguson senior died on December 5, 1995. As his son was not able to transfer his father's account containing £5,000 into his own name by December 31, he unwittingly lost the right to vote. (The N&P variable distribution is made up of a fixed £750 worth of free shares, plus 7 per cent of the account balance up to £50,000.)

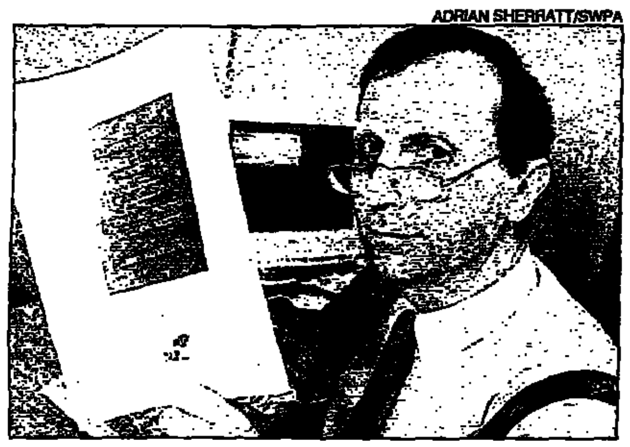
At the time the account was transfered, on January 26 1996, Mr Ferguson was told "the entitlement to benefits" was secure. The first mention that successors would receive only the fixed distribution came in a booklet, Share Accounts in the Sole Name of the Deceased, sent out in February.

Mr Ferguson said: "There will be widows of men who had their savings in their names only. The N&P should give all successors voting rights and full share entitlement." Fortunately, more favourable treatment is being given to second named holders on joint accounts where the first named holder dies before the vesting date. These savers can qualify as joint account successors and will be entitled to the variable distribution, provided they meet the conditions.

The deadline for votes in the N&P takeover poll is midnight on April 6. Helpline 0345 697349.

ANNE ASHWORTH

ADRIAN SHERRATT/SWPA



Ian Ferguson failed to transfer his father's account in time

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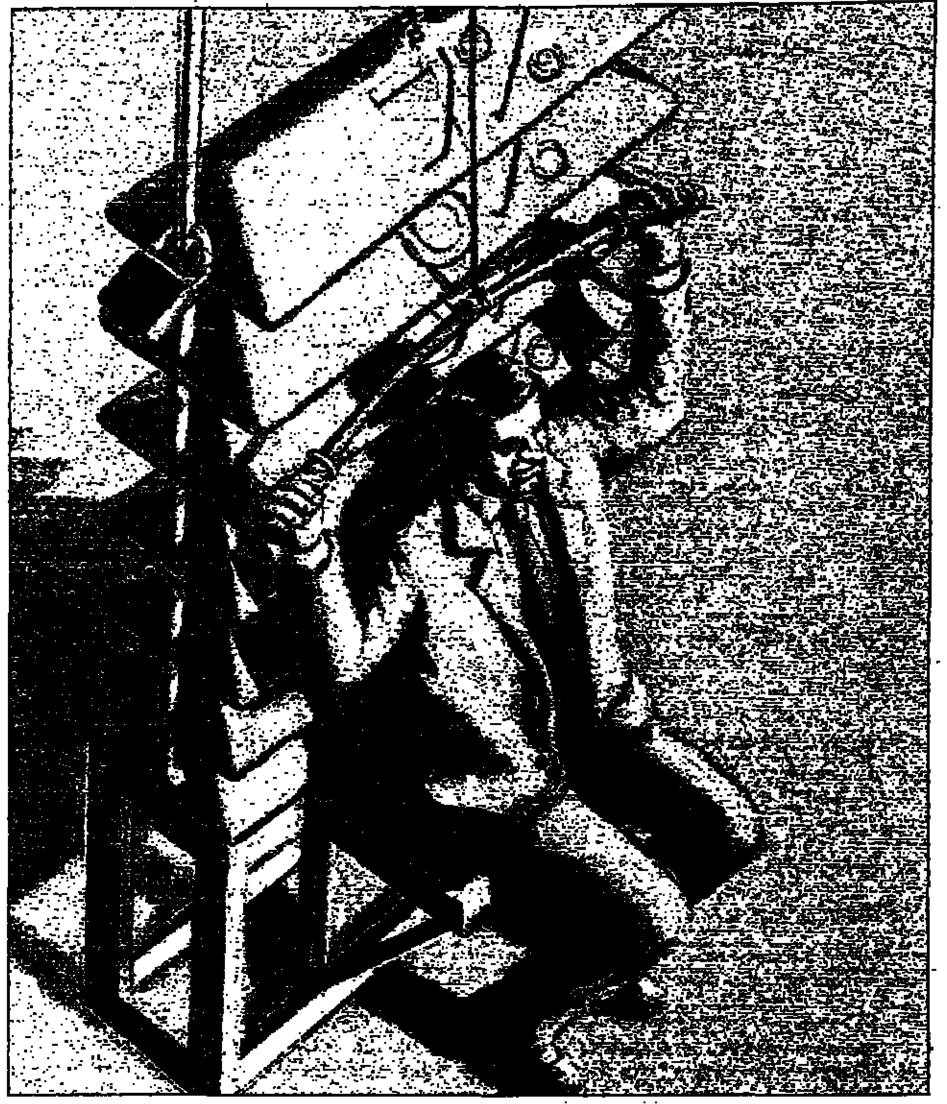
Sarah Jones puts the case for getting the choice of your new Tessa correct

Favourite auntie with a bad flaw


ANGUS MEWSE

Along with Tessa 2, Tessa's little sister, Guaranteed Tessa, her auntie, is making a regular appearance these days. And she is everyone's favourite auntie, it seems. Providers report that the majority of second-time Tessa savers are *going for the fixed-rate, rather* than the variable-rate option. Five years on from now though, she might not look so attractive.

Interest on a variable-rate Tessa will move up and down with the bank or building society's variable rate, which is linked to changes in the base rate. A fixed-rate Tessa pays one rate throughout the five-year life of the account. Variations on the theme include escalator Tessas offering a fixed rate guaranteed to rise each year for the five years.

This week's batch of fixed-rate Tessas include National & Provincial's Guaranteed Tessa at 7 per cent. It is open to both existing Tessa holders and newcomers. However, the latter have to commit the full £9,000 which is put into a feeder account. The TSB has reissued its follow-on Tessa with a rate of 7.4 per cent, equivalent of a guaranteed return of £12,850. Newcomers get a lower 7 per cent.

The Royal Bank of Scotland's new follow-on Tessa has a fixed rate which rises each year, starting at 7 per cent in year one and reaching 11 per cent in the final year. That gives an effective annual rate of 7.71 per cent, or a maturity value of £13,051. One of the best fixed rates around, it is still topped by two current variable Tessas, from Northern Rock (8 per cent) and the Cheltenham & Gloucester (7.75 per cent).

Fixed rates of about 7 per cent have looked good to savers as the base rate slides to 6.25 per cent and variable rates on many Tessas struggle to get much beyond 6.75 per cent. However many analysts believe that savers might be better off avoiding fixed rates, as rates could rise over a new Tessa's five-year term.

Ian Millward of Chase de Vere says: "Interest rates move *in cycles and we are currently* at the bottom of the cycle, the worst time to go into a fixed-rate investment. Nobody anticipates interest rates climbing back to 15 per cent in the next five years, but they only have to go up to 8 per cent and your Tessa fixed at 7 per cent is no longer a good deal. By tying themselves in, risk-averse savers are actually exposing themselves to risk by going for a fixed rate."

Others are more sanguine. "There are some good fixed deals around at the moment and that may be preferable to variable rates which at the outset look attractive but then sink," says Alastair Altham of Johnson Fry Asset Managers. "However, you must be sure that you can lock your money away for five years. The penalties for withdrawing from fixed-rate Tessas can be very severe, as much as 180 days' loss of interest."

For savers trying to hedge their bets, Birmingham Midshires is offering an account fixed at 6.75 per cent for two years before moving to a variable rate. Similarly, West Bromwich has an account with a 6 per cent fixed rate and the option on the third anniversary to move to a higher 7.5 per cent fixed rate or move to the variable rate. Abbey National's follow-on Tessa, fixed at 6.8 per cent, will pay a bonus of 1 per cent of the capital balance in each year in which the average base rate exceeds the previous year's average base rate by at least 1 per cent.

Providers, too, seem divided over whether new issues of fixed rates should be going up or down. TSB, for example, has increased its fixed-rate Tessa from 7.05 per cent to 7.4 per cent, while West Bromwich has dropped its rate from 7.55 per cent to 7.10 per cent.

THE TESSA

TESSAS, tax-exempt special savings accounts, were introduced five years ago. They allow you to invest up to £9,000 in a savings account and receive the interest tax-free, on condition you do not withdraw the original investment for five years. The maximum investment in the first year is £3,000 and £1,800 in subsequent years up to the £9,000, with a limit of one Tessa per adult.

When this Tessa matures, the original investment but not the interest earned on it can be reinvested in another Tessa. Savers have up to six months to decide whether to reinvest in another Tessa, but be warned a matured Tessa loses it's tax-free status and most providers will transfer them into accounts paying little more than 4 per cent gross per annum.

FOLLOW-ON TESSAS

Variable Rate	Min deposit £	Rate %	Transfer terms
Allied Trust Bank 0171 626 0879	9,000	7.25	2 months notice plus £25 fee
Bath BS 01225 423271	1.00	7.50	Discretionary transfer terms
Cheltenham & Gloucester 0800 717505	9,000	7.75	£30 fee
Mercantile BS 0191 2959500	1.00	7.50	£30 fee
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	3,001	7.50	£30 fee plus administration time
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	9,000	8.00	£30 fee plus administration time
Fixed Rate			
Bank of Ireland (NI) 0800 833937	500[2]	7.25[1]	£25 fee plus a loss of interest
Birmingham Midshires BS 0645 720721	1,000	7.05[1]	180 day loss of interest.
Sun Banking Corporation 01438 744505	9,000	7.40[1]	180 day notice plus 180 day loss of interest
TSB Via Branch	9,000[3]	7.40[1]	120 day loss of interest
West Bromwich BS 0121 6808024	3,000[4]	7.10[1]	28 day notice +180 day loss of interest
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	9,000	7.30[1]	Up to 180 day loss of interest.

[1]=Fixed Rate; [2]Northern Ireland residents only; [3]Booking fee required; [4]No further additions

Escalator TESSAs	Min dep	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year	5th year
Allied Trust Bank 0171 6260879	9,000[1]	6.25	6.75	7.00	7.25	8.75
Royal Bank of Scot 0800 121121	9,000[2]	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00

[1]Sub to penalty; [2]5-day notice plus min 30-day int loss. Int not compounded. Source: Money Facts

17.2%.*
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*Percentage increase in the value of an investment in Extra Income Fund PEP based on an offer to bid price performance with gross income reinvested 1.2.95 to 1.2.96. Since launch on 3.10.94, an investment in the fund on the same basis would have grown by 20%. Source: Micropal. †**As at 1.2.96 Part or all of the annual management charge may be paid out of capital – while this will enhance the income distributed it will constrain capital growth. The value of investments and any income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount you invested. Past performance is not a guide to the future. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. Save & Prosper Group Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. We only advise on the products and services offered by the Fleming and Save & Prosper Marketing Group

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£6,600 – £7,499	5.85% tax-free
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And that's not the best part. Any interest you made from TESSA first time round, can also be reinvested in our new Corporate Bond Personal Equity Plan (PEP). A high income (estimated 6.6%**), low-risk investment with the same tax-free attraction as TESSA. *And, there's no initial charge.*†

To find out more, simply pop into your local Woolwich branch. One of our advisers will be on hand to explain the benefits of reinvesting your TESSA with the Woolwich. Or, if you prefer, give us a call now on the freephone number below or cut the coupon and we will send you an information pack.

*Provided the account was opened on 1st January 1991 with the maximum permitted investments being made on the 1st January each year.
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†Offer is valid until 30th April 1996.

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[illegible] This account is available to all previous TESSA holders who have held a TESSA which has reached the end of its five year term, provided the account is opened within six months of the maturity date of the first TESSA. The rates of interest are variable and are currently as follows, up to £6,599 5.60% tax-free; £6,600-£7,499 5.85% tax-free and £7,500 plus 6.55% tax-free. Interest will be credited to your account on 1st January each year. During the term withdrawals from this account shall be limited to the amount of interest credited to the account less a sum equivalent to income tax on such interest [illegible] at the time the interest was credited to the account. If withdrawals are made in excess of these limits, the account will lose its tax-exempt status and will terminate. All withdrawals are [illegible] branch limits. Tax free means free of income tax. Proof of identity may be required. Full terms and conditions are available on request from any Woolwich branch. Corporate Bond PEP. Woolwich Building Society represents only the Woolwich Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for Unit Trust business and the Personal Investment Authority for Life Assurance business. Woolwich Unit Trust Managers Limited is a member of the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds. Any advice or recommendation provided will only relate to products offered by the Woolwich Marketing Group. Principal Office of Woolwich Building Society and Registered Office of Woolwich Unit Trust Managers Limited: Corporate Headquarters, [illegible] Street, Bexleyheath, Kent [illegible]. All references to taxation are to UK taxation and are based on the Society's understanding of UK law and Inland Revenue practice as at 5th April [illegible]. Tax reliefs referred to may change and their value will depend on your own financial circumstances.

T7

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اصكذا من الاحل

The new tax rules that could launch a big paper chase

Karen Zagor on why it is vital to keep your financial records up to date for self-assessment

JUSTIN SUTCLIFFE

Just the ticket: Heather Masri keeps all her bills in a shoe box ready to work out her US taxes

No one is safe from the new self-assessment tax rules. That is the message from the Inland Revenue, which this week launched an advertising campaign to warn all taxpayers to keep records of earnings and expenditure.

"The 20 million people who don't get tax returns don't have to worry about self-assessment," says a Revenue spokeswoman. "But they still need to keep records because if their circumstances change, they will need to have their paperwork in order."

Record-keeping for tax purposes can be onerous. In the US taxpayers are accustomed to hoarding shop receipts, cheque stubs, credit card bills and bank statements. Few people have a kind word to say about the process.

Heather Masri, a US graduate student, has passed on the burden of filling in tax forms to her husband. "Before I got married, I filed my own returns. The worst part of it was going through a shoe box filled with receipts and picking out all sorts of things to deduct from this massive pile of papers, then adding them up and realising that the total amounts were smaller than the standard deductions."

Ms Masri said it usually took her four hours to sort through the paperwork, without counting the extra time spent chasing missing forms. "I don't earn much money, but if you have anything extra, like a bank savings account, you have to get an addendum to the tax form. The bank doesn't always send you one so you have to go to the bank or post office for an extra form, which they never seem to have, and that takes time."

Maria Silber, also of New York, says the process is "so horrible that I pay an accountant $250 a year to do my taxes, even though my situation is fairly straightforward. It's hard to keep up with every change in tax law, so you pay an accountant to know these things for you."

In the UK, the Revenue is assuring taxpayers that the new tax structure will not impose an undue burden. "For most people, record-keeping means keeping your P60 form. If you have got building society savings, keep your statements. For most employed people, it's not much." But the truth of the matter is that if you claim any allowances, including the married couple's allowance, you will have to be able to provide evidence that you qualify.

Hywel Jones of the Chartered Institute of Taxation writes in an article in the Consumers' Association's *Consumer Policy Review*: "Many taxpayers who have completed their own tax returns in the past may feel intimidated by the volume of the new return." He says nine million taxpayers may be affected by the new system.

What do the rules say?

From April, you will have a legal obligation to keep all relevant records to complete an accurate tax return. You will need to keep records of tax you have paid and any records you may need to make a claim. Records need to be kept for UK pension or social security benefits as well as interest dividends or other income from UK savings, investments or trusts. You must also be able to provide evidence of capital gains or allowable losses.

Who will be most affected by self-assessment?

Anyone with tax complexities including the self-employed, company directors, higher-rate taxpayers who have savings or investment income and homeowners who let out their property.

RIGHT GUIDE

THE Inland Revenue has produced four booklets on Self Assessment.

To order the relevant guide, ring the Revenue's special Self Assessment response line on 0345 161514. Lines are open 24-hours a day.

Employers will also be affected by the new rules. Clark Whitehill, chartered accountants, have prepared a special booklet. For a free copy ring: 0171 583 5757.

What records need to be kept?

☐ Vouchers from your employer showing your pay, including bonuses and tax deducted. Documents relating to benefits in kind, expenses payments and share scheme arrangements. You should also keep payslips or pay statments, and the Revenue suggest keeping forms P2 and P2K (PAYE Coding Notices) to help to keep track of any earlier tax underpayments. Overseas earnings details and tax paid should be kept.

☐ Documents from the Benefits Agency relating to a State pension or any other taxable social security benefits such as sick pay, statutory maternity pay and unemployment benefit.

☐ Certificates from your bank or building society showing tax deducted from any interest income.

☐ Documents related to savings or investment income including bank and building society passbooks or statements, dividend vouchers, unit trust tax vouchers, life insurance chargeable event certificates. If you use inheritance or windfall money to fund an investment, keep copies of any correspondence.

☐ Documents relating to any other income, such as alimony or maintenance.

☐ For capital gains or allowable losses, you must keep records on the purchase and sale, lease or exchange of assers. You should also retain details of any assets you have given away or put into trust.

What if I claim benefits?

You must be able to document any claims. For example, you may be asked to produce charitiable deeds of covenant if you claim relief for donations to charity, or you may have to show a marriage certificate if you claim the married couple's allowance.

If you claim deductions for business expenses, you should keep bank statements, cheque stubs, money order counterfoils, certificates of interest paid, receipts and other records.

What if I do not maintain adequate records?

You can be fined up to £3,000 for each year in which you failed to maintain adequate records to support a tax return or claim. But the fines will not be levied automatically.

How long must I hold on to the receipts?

If you are an employee, you must keep your paperwork for 22 months after the fixed filing date. The fixed filing date is January 31 after the end of the tax year.

If you are self-employed or run your own business, you must keep your records for five years after the filng date. In all cases, if the Revenue investigates your tax return, you will need to retain your records until the inquiry is complete.

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Robert Miller on two investment stars and the Japanese factor

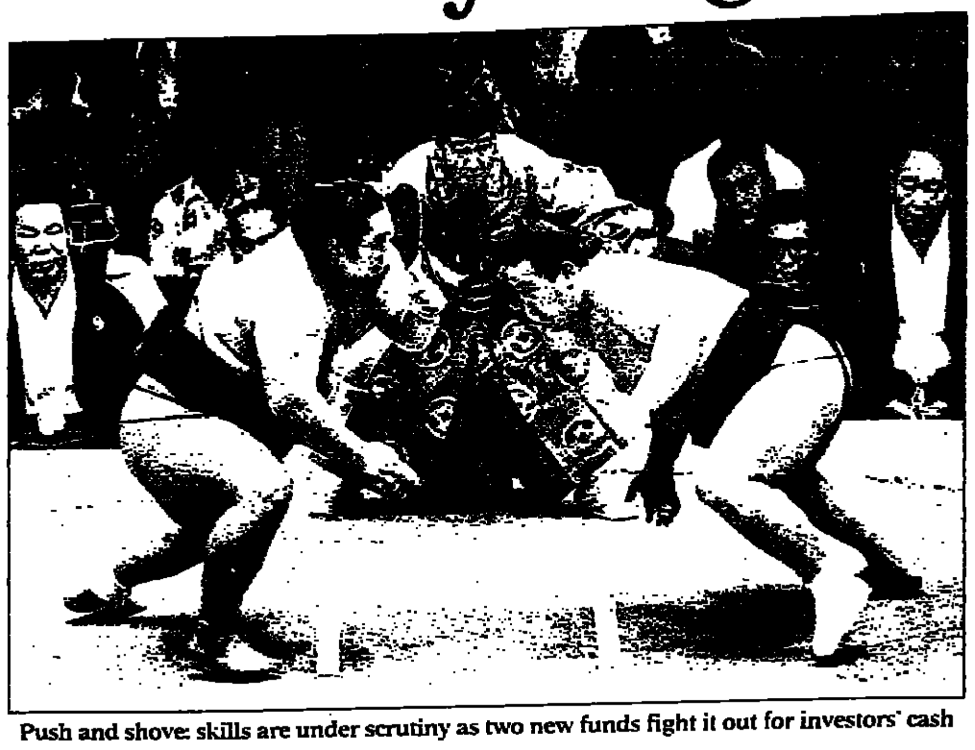
Reputations at stake in battle of heavyweights

The cult of turning fund managers into investment stars and promoting trusts on the back of that fame is an interesting, if sometimes flawed, concept. Flawed because, for all we know, the manager might just have got lucky and been in the right market at the right time.

This weekend, however, investors have a choice between two fund managers who have every right to call attention to their investment skills. In one corner is Ed Merner, late of Schroders and now with Atlantis which today publishes the prospectus for its new Guernsey-based Japan Growth Fund. In the other, is Michael Hart, manager of Foreign & Colonial trust since 1969, Britain's oldest and second largest investment trust, which on Thursday announced its 25th consecutive annual dividend increase.

In securing the services of Mr Merner, Atlantis has scored a notable coup with which to promote its new offshore fund. He has more than 25 years experience of the Japanese securities market and the Schroder Japanese Smaller Companies Fund, which he managed, is the top performing unit trust over ten years. Mr Merner, a fluent Japanese speaker, will continue to live on the spot in Tokyo.

The investment brief for the new Atlantis Japanese fund should suit Mr Merner down to the ground. As the prospectus says he can build his portfolio "without specific restraints on sector weightings or size of company and with an emphasis where the investment adviser (Mr Merner) perceives there to be future growth prospects and above average management".



Push and shove: skills are under scrutiny as two new funds fight it out for investors' cash

Atlantis Japan, which hopes to raise $150 million, has made an application for a listing on the London Stock Exchange and subsequently hopes to qualify as an approved investment trust. The fund's minimum entry point is £1,500 and investors will receive the by-now-traditional one free warrant with every five shares.

But Atlantis Investment Management is a mere babe when stacked against the giant F&C and in the highly cut-throat investment world (see Trustwatch below) it has to make a mark with investors in a short space of time. Atlantis was only founded in 1994 by Peter Irving, a former assistant director at Schroder Investment Management, where he was in charge of Korean Investments. Japan also features in F&C's geographically diversified portfolio together with Europe, the US, Latin America, other Far East markets and the UK.

If you are looking for a specific exposure to Japan then the Atlantis Japan Growth fund should at least make the shortlist. If, however, you want a sound and consistent general investment trust, where the manager makes all the decisions for you, then F&C has to be a very strong contender. A final point is that both F&C and Atlantis Japan are non-qualifying trusts in personal equity plan terms and only £1,500 can be ring-fenced in them. F&C does, however, offer you a chance to make up the difference to £6,000 in other F&C trusts.

Analysts welcome TR's hostile bid

TRUST WATCH

THE hostile bid launched this week by TR Pacific Investment Trust on Thornton's Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust is not so much ruthless as just plain no-nonsense (writes Robert Miller).

TR Pacific, managed by Michael Watt, is a top performer in its sector and its shares trade at a premium to the net asset value of the underlying portfolio. Thornton Asian languishes at the other end of the performance scales and its shares trade at a discount.

The TR Pacific bid offers Thornton Asian shareholders new TR Pacific Ordinary shares or a cash alternative to those investors who want an exit route. If the TR bid is successful, it will cut the annual management fee to 0.9 per cent. To overcome the problem posed by Thornton Asian's holdings in unlisted Chinese investments, TR proposes to strip these out and issue "C" or Conversion shares in respect of them.

Iain Dale, chairman of TR Pacific, says: "Our offer provides Thornton Asian shareholders with an attractive opportunity to exchange their Thornton Asian shares for securities which enjoy a better market rating, and in the board's opinion, offer better prospects for the future, while providing an immediate solution to the problem of ChinaVest."

Thornton Asian, which is due to be woundup this autumn, had already called an extraordinary general meeting to consider its future possibly involving a restructuring as an open-ended fund. In light of the TR bid, Thornton Asian'a board advised investors to take no immediate action. Investment trust analysts welcomed TR's move. Hamish Buchan of NatWest Securities said the bid "made a lot of sense". Peter Walls of Credit Lyonnais Laing said: "This is construction or corrective corporate activity and we welcome it."

☐ *Additional research by Jill Forbes*

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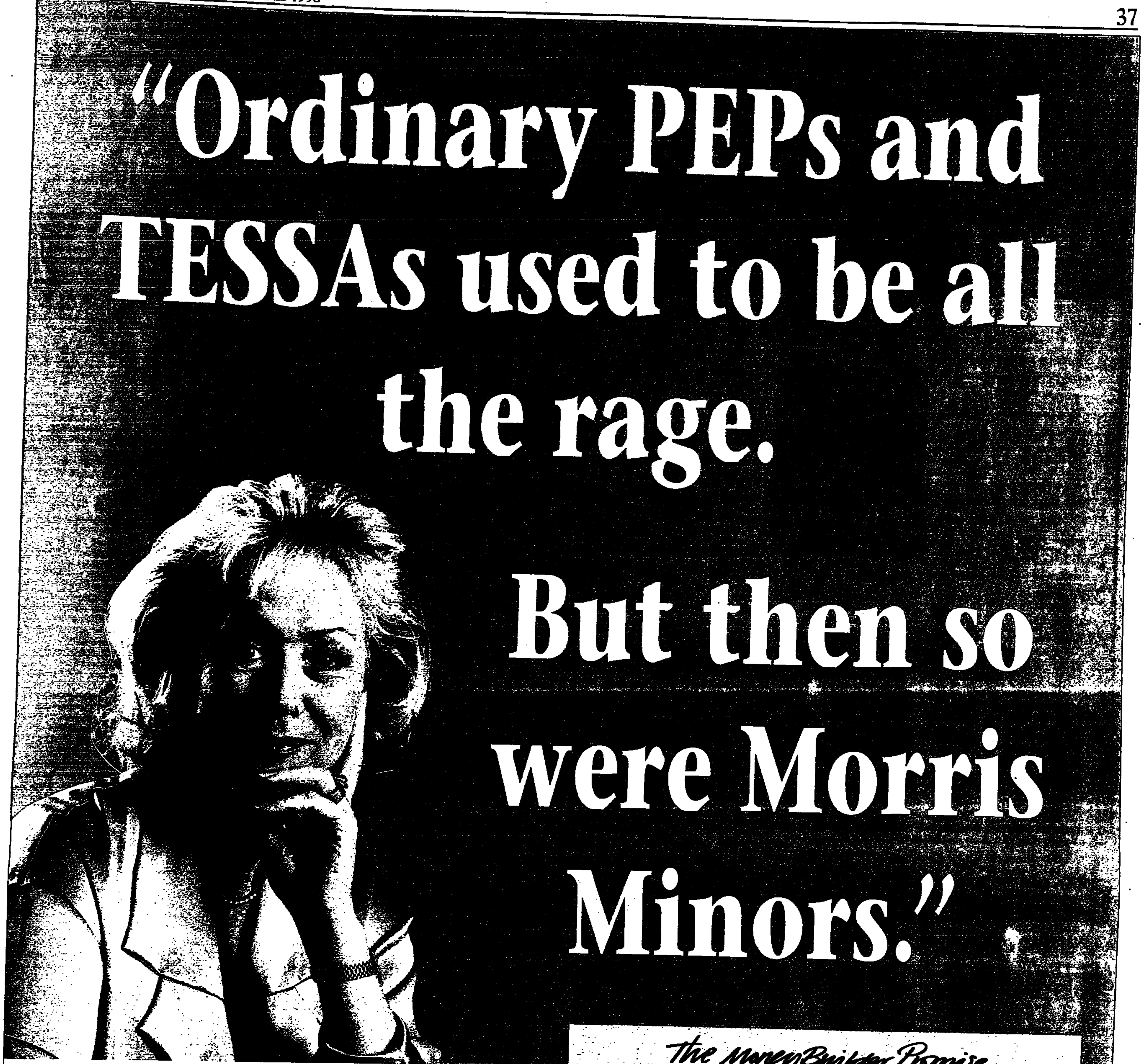

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Caroline Merrell offers premium advice on insurance and why it

Take cover when you visit the hotspots

Direct Line, the UK's largest private motor insurer, is about to break into what its chief executive Ian Chippendale calls the "cosy, rip-off world of travel insurance". It will begin testing single-trip and annual policies this summer, and expects to have a full product range in place by spring 1997.

Some travel agents make 40 per cent commission on travel insurance policies sold with package holidays. The Office of Fair Trading is so concerned about the practice that it launched a study last year and expects to make its findings public within three weeks. Direct Line, which prompted a price war in the motor insurance market by cutting out commission paid to brokers, has given warning that it intends to do the same for travel insurance.

As holidaymakers travel to more adventurous destinations, they need more insurance cover. No insurer will cover countries which the Home Office has advised British tourists to avoid. Others will warn holidaymakers about areas with high crime rates. In Peru, bombings are commonplace. In Jamaica, walking or taking public transport at night is not advised and in The Gambia the political situation is worsening. Anyone taking out travel insurance should obey a few simple rules.

☐ **Policy type:** It is important to choose a policy according to how many times you go on holiday each year. Annual policies, which cover any number of holidays taken during the year, are becoming popular. But they may limit the length of an individual trip.

☐ **Level of cover:** If you are planning to do any dangerous sports while you are away, such as scuba diving or white water rafting, it is important to make sure that the policy covers you. Some, such as that offered through Thomas Cook, will automatically cover you for these extra activities, with others you pay extra.

☐ **Doubling up:** It is worth checking to see whether any of your existing policies give you some sort of cover. It could be possible to reduce your premiums this way. Cover for baggage, for instance, comprises about 30 per cent of premiums, and you may already be covered under your household insurance.

☐ **Follow the conditions:** It is important to check that you fulfil all the conditions of making a claim. For example, if you are robbed, you may not be able to make a claim unless you have police corroboration.

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	Direct Travel £35	Inter Assurance £87.50	GA Direct £87.13	Direct Travel £101.48
	Whiteley £41.25	Club Direct Classic £87.50	Sun Alliance £90	Direct Travel Plus £117.88
	Leisurecare £41.25	Travel Insurance Direct £83	Help the Aged £70.46	Worldcover Dir £120
	Travel Insurance Direct £33.80			
RETIRED OR ELDERLY	Whiteley (65+) £16.50	Club Direct Classic (70-74) £54.20	Help the Aged £44.89	Help the Aged £89.79
	Travel Insurance Direct £16.90	Help the Aged £37.41	BIIBA (up to 70) £44	Bradford & Bingley(65+)£85
	Help the Aged £14.97	Travel Insurance Direct £41.50	Bradford & Bingley (65+) £85	Direct Travel (65-75) £147.60
	Age Concern £16.85	Age Concern £54.20	Brittania Contin. (76+) £72.75	Saga (70+) £149

Source: Which ?

The right route for US car insurance

Many of the two million UK residents who visit the US each year will hire a car for their holidays. Those taking advantage of the many "fly-drive" deals offered will automatically get a car as part of the package, while others will choose to hire a car when they get to their destination.

Tour operators point out that it is imperative to understand the intricacies of the insurance they are taking out. If they do not, they risk financial ruin. Matthew France and Lisa Pilkington, who went on holiday to the US last year, face such a predicament.

Mr France and Ms Pilkington were involved in a collision with a motorcycle while on a Los Angeles highway. Unfortunately, one of those on the motorcycle fractured their skull, and, in a move which is commonplace in the US, they decided to sue the couple for damages, medical costs and loss of earnings.

Mr France believed he would be covered for the litigation under his travel insurance policy, which he took out with Thomas Cook. It offered £2 million public liability insurance.

France: car crash

However, to his consternation he found that his policy did not cover anything "arising directly or indirectly from the ownership or use of motorised vehicles". To be completely and adequately insured, he would have needed to take out extra cover on top of the motor insurance cover he did take out. Mr France claims: "We were told by Thomas Cook that we had all the necessary insurance, so we did not take out any extra."

Mr France has hired lawyers in both the UK and in the US to help him fight his action, in which he could end up being liable for $1million. His solicitors are hoping to team up with the motorcyclist's solicitors to bring a case against Thomas Cook. Bob Clark, commercial insurance products manager, points out that all travel insurance policies exclude car accidents under their public liability cover. Mr Clark adds: "The minimum amount of liability insurance people are obliged to take out in America varies from state to state. For example, in Florida it is $20,000. This minimum compensation is very low in a country where the maximum awards are very high."

He advises anyone planning to hire a car in the US to take out the liability insurance supplement. For example, US insurer AIG has a policy Topsure, which will provide extra cover of up to $1m. Mr Clark says: "The extra cover costs around £5 a day."

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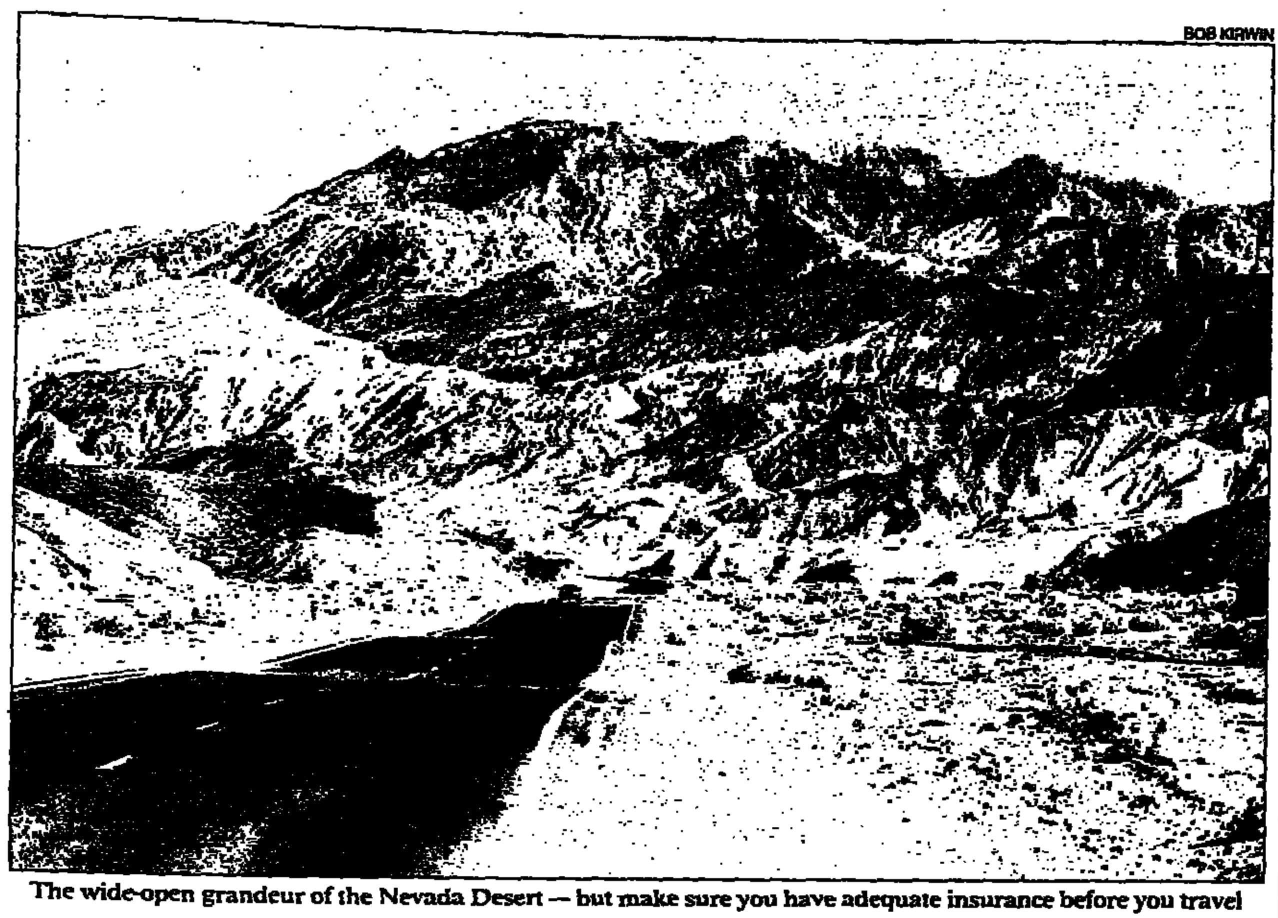

BOB KIRWIN

The wide-open grandeur of the Nevada Desert — but make sure you have adequate insurance before you travel

Dollar exchange rate that cost the price of three US air tickets

When the NatWest was asked to turn $15,000 into sterling there was a considerable sting in the tail

Cash is still king around much of the world. The mighty greenback remains the favourite method of payment from the street bazaars of Cairo to the chic shops of Hong Kong.

Yet if you are returning to Britain from abroad with a large sum in dollars it is a very different story. My father is an American resident. I see him infrequently and on my last visit he gave me $15,000 in crisp $100 bills to cover Christmas and birthday presents over the coming year for his seven English grandchildren and their parents.

It seemed sensible to keep commission and bank charges to a minimum by exchanging the sum in one transaction and then distributing the money around the family in sterling.

I consulted my account manager at the National Westminster bank in Orpington, Kent; where I have banked for more than 20 years. I was told that the bank's maximum commission was £15, no matter how large the sum. My best course, I was advised, was simply to pay the cash direct into my NatWest account. I did so and thought no more of it until two months later when I received the regular quarterly bank statement. The sum credited was just above £9,200. A quick back-of-the-envelope calculation suggested that at about 1.52 dollars to the pound, the sum should have been nearer £9,900.

The bank denied that there had been any mistake. Yes, the commission was only £15. But, they now explained belatedly, they offer a different exchange rate for cash deposits in foreign currency to cover their "handling charges".

And it is some difference. To handle my 150 crisp new bills the bank had offered just 1.63 dollars to the pound. Although I had been acting on the NatWest's own advice on how to minimise charges on the transaction, the bank had ended up taking more than £650 out of the children's gifts from their grandfather. At no point had NatWest told me that there was a different — and highly disadvantageous — rate for cash exchanges.

I pointed out that I could have handled the transaction cheaper myself by flying back to America and asking my father for a cheque. Eventually NatWest offered a refund of £300 as a "gesture of goodwill". Even so, I had still paid more than £350 for their services.

NatWest said: "Unfortunately Mr Williamson left the branch without knowing the rate of exchange and had incorrectly assumed that he would get the commercial exchange rate and not the cash rate. We have offfered him an ex-gratia payment."

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

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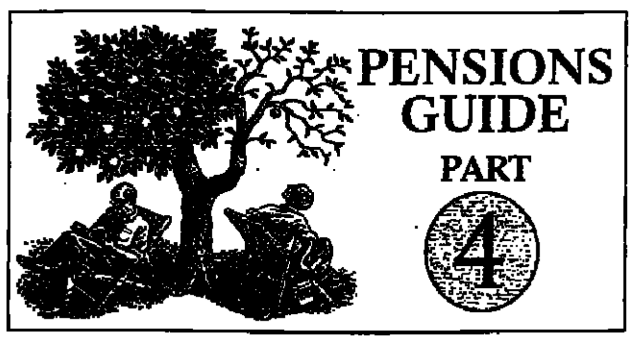

Helen Pridham on why it is vital to find out what contribution your employer is making to your future

Beware: It may be, as the BBC series implied, a Nice Day at the Office — but is the pension scheme good enough?

Since 1988, employers have not been allowed to make it compulsory for employees to join an occupational pension scheme. But if you are offered the chance of joining a company scheme it is rarely advisable to refuse.

The biggest advantage of belonging to a scheme is that your employer will be making a contribution to your future pension on top of any savings you make. Indeed, with some occupational schemes, the employer pays the full cost.

According to the National Association of Pension Funds's 1995 Annual Survey, employees last year were expected to contribute an average of 4.6 per cent of their earnings to their schemes, while employers paid in 7.1 per cent. In schemes where employees were not expected to contribute, employers stumped up an average of 10.1 per cent.

With most schemes, though, employers' contributions vary from year to year because they pay whatever is necessary to meet the on-going cost of the scheme. There are often other benefits associated with pension scheme membership, such as life assurance.

Currently half of all company employees belong to an occupational pension scheme. The two main types of occupational pension schemes are:

☐ **Final salary schemes:** These traditional schemes, which still make up the majority of those currently in existence, promise a fixed amount of pension in relation to your final salary at retirement for each year you work for an employer. A frequent build-up is 1/60th of final salary for each year of membership of the scheme. The maximum permitted pension is two-thirds of final salary, but since it normally requires 40 years continuous service with one employer to achieve this maximum, very few people ever reach this level.

These schemes are attractive for employees because of the certainty they provide. They are especially advantageous for those with long service, whose earnings increase towards retirement. Employers are growing less keen on them, though, because of the open-ended financial commitment they require and increased regulation.

☐ **Money purchase schemes:** In recent years an increasing number of employers have introduced these schemes which require fixed contributions from both employers and employees.

The amount of pension you get from this type of scheme is not guaranteed. It will depend on the level of contributions, the investment performance achieved by the fund's managers and annuity rates at the time of your retirement. While these schemes lack the certainty of the final salary, they tend to be fairer to those who move jobs.

Until relatively recently, employers were often not very good at communicating the merits of their pension schemes to employees, particularly the fact that they were paying into the schemes on behalf of their employees or the continuing benefits of an occupational pension in retirement. This is undoubtedly the reason why some people in the late Eighties were lured out of superior company schemes into personal pension schemes which are now the subject of a large-scale regulatory review.

Nowadays the marketing rules for personal pension salesmen are much stricter but there are still some people who are opting not to join occupational schemes. "They tend to be either young people who misguidedly would rather have the cash in hand or people who do not expect to stay very long with their employer" says Sheila Fuller, pensions adviser at independent intermediaries, Frizzell Life & Financial Planning.

She adds: "The problem is that the young people will find it very difficult to make up these contributions in years to come, while those who think they are only going to be with an employer for a short time are often still there five years later."

Fortunately, however, even if you have declined membership of a scheme in the past, most employers will still allow you into a scheme for future service.

Many people were put off occupational pensions by the Maxwell affair. However the 1995 Pensions Act which comes into effect in April 1997 will introduce a variety of measures designed to improve considerably the financial security of pension scheme members.

Since 1986, people changing jobs have had the legal right to transfer their pension rights out of their old employer's pension scheme to their next employer's scheme or to their own individual pension plan. This can be advantageous but it is vital to get professional advice.

Jim Brooks, development manager for Clerical Medical, the insurer, says: "Transfers are not always advantageous especially if your old employer gives generous post-retirement discretionary increases in pensions.

"But for some people a transfer can enhance their pension," he adds.

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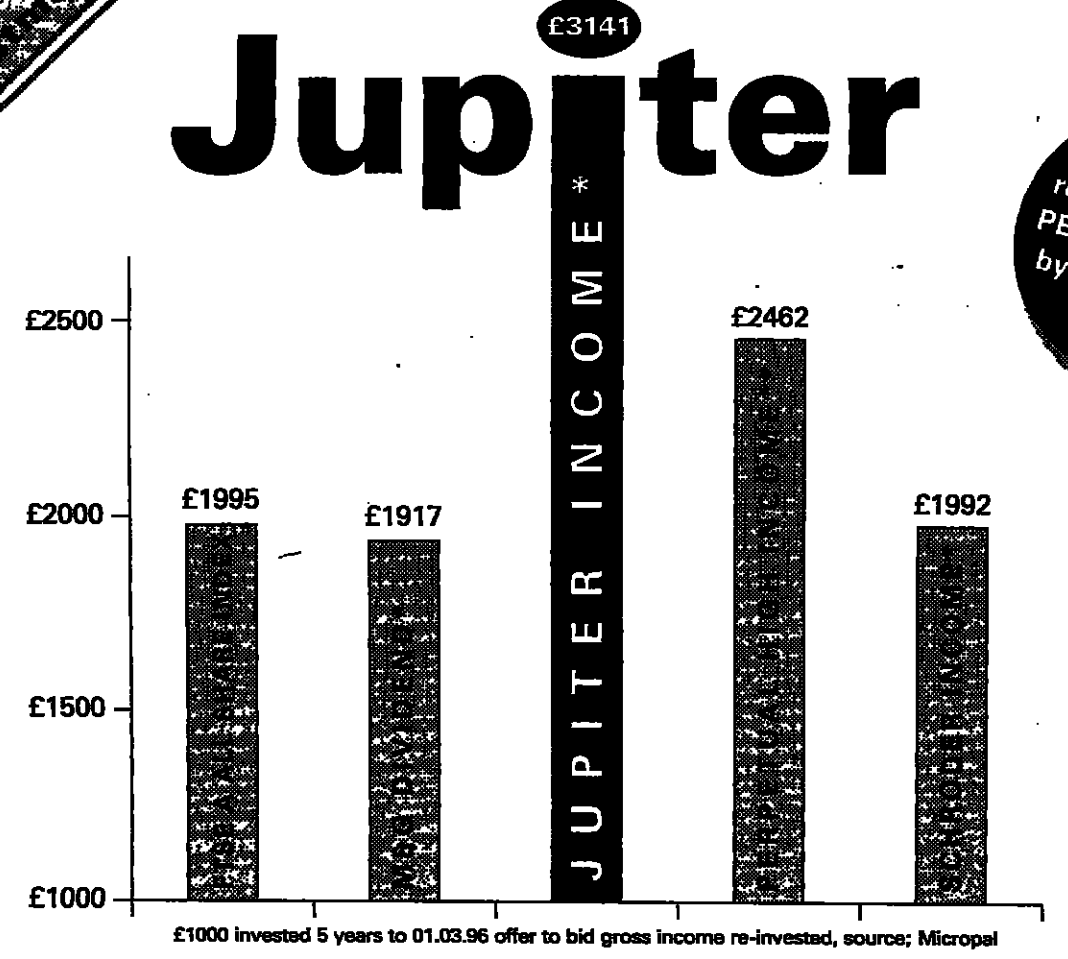

£1000 invested 5 years to 01.03.96 offer to bid gross income re-invested, source; Micropal

We must receive 1995/96 PEP applications by first post on 4th April

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1 Year 1st out of 82
2 Years 1st out of 76
3 Years 1st out of 75
4 Years 1st out of 74
5 Years 1st out of 72

JUPITER

* Source: Micropal, UK Equity Income Sector. ** Source: Micropal, UK Equity & Bond Sector. † Source: Micropal, offer to bid gross income reinvested.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREE ON 0500 0500 97

To: Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB. Please send me further information on the Jupiter PEP. T1243
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† Source: Moneyfacts. Figures assume that the TESSA was opened on 1.1.91 with the maximum initial investment of £3,000 and that the maximum top up investments allowed were made on each anniversary during the account's five year term. *HTR European Value PEP. Source: Micropal. Amounts invested on the same basis to 1.1.96, offer to bid price. Total return figure shows gross income reinvested. Please remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of an investment and any income from it may go down as well as up as a result of market and currency fluctuations. Investors may not get back the amount originally invested. PEP investors should also be aware that the terms relating to PEPs may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief will depend on individual circumstances. "Henderson Touche Remnant" represents products and services offered by Henderson Touche Remnant Unit Trust Management Ltd, registered in England no 2678531 and Henderson Financial Management Ltd, registered in England no 906355. Both companies are regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority and have as their registered office 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA.

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هكذا من الأصل

Demand high as Peps are offered at a bargain price

It is now possible to buy a personal equity plan based on unit trusts from a top investment house for as little as £25.

The price war, which has been raging among the Pep product providers over the last three years, has now spread to the independent financial advisers selling the products themselves. Discounting has caught the imagination of the public, and unit trust companies are reporting a big surge in business as the end of the tax year looms.

When unit trust Peps were first introduced a few years ago, it would have been unthinkable that charges would fall to this level. Then, investors had to pay for the Pep wrapping, as well as a 5 to 6 per cent initial charge. It is now cheaper to invest through a Pep, than it is to buy the underlying investments.

The discounts offered are usually in the region of 3 per cent — this is the equivalent to the amount of initial commission the independent financial adviser would have earned on the deal. On a Pep investment of £6,000, this represents a saving of £180.

The adviser will then hope to make money on renewal commission, usually 0.5 per cent. The renewal commission comes out of the annual management charge on the Pep, which is usually in the order of 1.5 per cent.

However, over the last few weeks, price competition has intensified to the extent that some of the deals offered by the discount houses are effectively "loss leaders".

One particular broker, the Pep Shop, based in Nottingham, is offering a 4 per cent discount on some products. The broker itself pays the extra 1 per cent, which it hopes to recoup from two-years' worth of renewal commission.

The Pep Shop gives those who take up its services generic advice about which type of Pep to take out. Haydn Green, Pep Shop managing director, said: "We find out whether, for instance, the investor needs to invest for growth or for income." He said investors would then be advised about the types of products which would be suitable. Mr Green said "Most of our clients are in the over-45 age group. These people may be building society refugees, or those moving capital out of fixed interest stock, directly into equities." Mr Green believes discount houses will grow in number, and could end up representing around 50 per cent of all Pep business transacted.

The Pep Shop will give a 4 per cent discount on Perpetual Peps, a 4.5 per cent discount on Jupiter Peps and a 0.75 per cent discount on Fidelity's corporate bond Pep.

Next year it is planning to offer "welcome payments", for people transferring their Peps from other brokers.

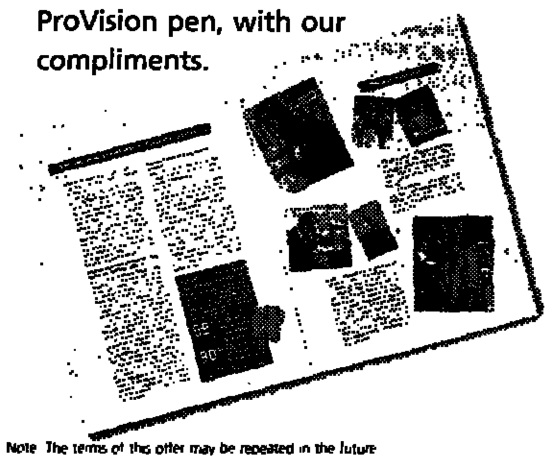
Chelsea Financial Services is one of the biggest and longest established discount houses in the country. It claims that investors are taking out Peps with it at a rate of 1,000 a week. John Holder, Chelsea managing director, says it started the discount battle more than ten years ago. Chelsea, for instance, will offer a discount of up to 5 per cent on Perpetual's Peps. The discount will comprise of 3 per cent rebated commission plus another 2 per cent from Perpetual itself.

Pep-Direct is the latest entrant into the market. It offers an execution-telephone service, which costs a flat fee of £25 per Pep. The company, which is part of independent financial adviser Torquil Clark, was launched on February 17. It has already sold around 1,400 Peps.

☐ *Pep discount houses include Chelsea on 0171 351 6022, Garrison on 01482 861455, Seymour Sinclair on 0171 935 6445, Pep Shop on 0115 982 5105, Pep-Direct on 0800 413186.*

CAROLINE MERRELL

There are lot of different varieties of Pep on offer



Are you too busy earning money to make money?

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If you're busy working to earn your money, the chances are that you don't have the time to ensure that you're making the most of the amounts you can afford to save or invest for the future.

The market for savings and investment opportunities is so broad and complicated that it would be a full time job for you to explore and understand all the options thoroughly. And you already have a full-time job.

This means that it's frustratingly easy to miss out. You could be missing opportunities to save tax. You may have money in accounts and savings plans which offer uncompetitive growth rates. Or equally, you may be taking unnecessary and inappropriate risks with your money.

When you've worked so hard to earn your money in the first place, you deserve to know that it's working hard for you.

That's why, at Clerical Medical, we've introduced a service specially designed for busy people. It's called ProVision and its purpose is to help you deal with the kind of long-term financial issues which it's all too easy to put off for another day – like maximising the return on your savings.

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- **strike the right balance between risk and potential reward**

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Note The terms of this offer may be repeated in the future but cannot be guaranteed Only one pen per household

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Clerical Medical & General Life Assurance Society was founded in 1824 to serve the needs of clerics and medics, the leading professionals of that time. Today, as a leading provider of pensions, investments and life assurance, Clerical Medical Investment Group manages funds of around £13 billion.

Our ProVision Financial Planners draw upon Clerical Medical's wide range of pensions, life assurance and investment plans designed for today's career-minded people. So, when you choose the ProVision service for your financial planning needs, you can be confident you're dealing with a company of the highest quality and reputation. Only Clerical Medical products will be recommended where appropriate to your needs.

Lines open 8am to 9pm Monday to Thursday, 8am to 5pm Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday.

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Guide simplifies care provisions

AN UPDATED guide to the Community Care Act, which includes the revisions in state benefits coming into force on April 1, has been published by PPP Lifetime Care, the long-term care insurance company. The guide simplifies the rules governing benefits and provides examples of entitlements that individuals can receive. For a free copy, call PPP Lifetime Care on 0345 777543.

Holden Meehan, the independent financial adviser, has pubished its *1996 Independent Guide to Ethical and Green Investment Funds*, reporting a 26 per cent increase in ethical funds under management in the past two years. The guide offers a review of the current market to assist investors in selecting the most tax-efficient fund for their needs. The guide covers 21 pension funds, 11 Peps and three Tessas — funds which either demonstrate a positive commitment to the environment's protection or which use a set of ethical criteria. Call Holden Meehan on 0117 9252874 (Bristol) or 0171 4046442 (London).

Householders will be receiving council tax demands during the next few days. Some of these could be based on incorrect information, according to Birmingham Midshires, which is providing homeowners with a property assessment service, which will include a written report by a professional, for a fixed fee of £60. The building society will also handle an appeal against the banding of a property on behalf of the householder for an hourly rate of £40 plus VAT. Call 01902 325611.

The number of individual shareholders increased during the 1980s to a peak of 11 million by 1991, largely as a result of privatisations. The number of shareholders now stands at nine million. ProShare is trying to raise the profile of share ownership again and has published a 40-page paper setting out its ideas. For a copy of *All Capitalists Now*, send a cheque for £4.99 to ProShare UK Ltd, Library Chambers, 13-14 Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 5BQ.

Investment and Tax Planning Services has produced two guides to Enterprise Zone Trusts and Venture Capital Trusts. Send a £6 cheque per pack to ITPS, 31 Aylesbury Road, Bedford, MK41 9RJ.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Portman BS 01202 292444	Inst Access	Instant	£100	4.80	Yly
Skipton BS 01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£2,500	5.10	Yly
Buckinghamshire BS 01494 873064	Chiltern Gold	Postal	£10,000	5.65	½Yly
Direct Line 0181 6671121	Inst Savings	Instant	£25,000	6.00	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Manchester BS 0161 8349465	45 Day	45 day	£25,000	6.55	Yly
Bradford & Bingley 0345 248248	Direct 90	90 day p	£15,000	6.60	Yly
Bradford & Bingley 0345 248248	Direct 90	90 day p	£30,000	7.00	Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	120 Account	120 day	£5,000	6.50	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£8,575	7.40	F/Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 717505		5 year	£3,000	7.25	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£25	7.25	Yly
Dunfermline BS 01383 627727		5 year	£3,000	7.20	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.92%	11.50%	Nil C
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.00%	£12
Frizell Bank 0800 373191	MasterCard?Visa	1.17%	16.10%	£11

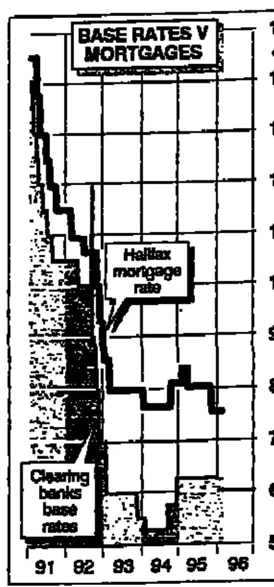
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

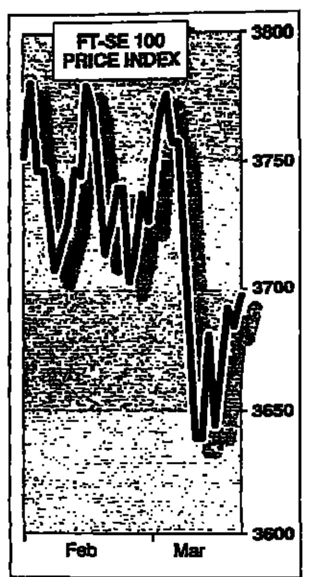
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0141 2489966	14.90%E	£114.41	£102.59
Midland 0800 180180	14.90%	£115.82	£102.49
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33

Nb. A = 2% bonus if Account opened by 30.4.96, C = no interest free period, D = for debt consolidation only, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), G = Annual rate 5% above R Fleming base rate, OM denotes Interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* §	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500**	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* §	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-25,000**	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond§	6.25	4.68	3.75	1,000-20,000**		01416362558
43rd Issue Cert†‡	5.35			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond‡ §	6.65	4.98	3.99	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
9th Index Linked†‡	2.50			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S3 §	7.00	5.25	4.20	500-50,000¶	60day	01253766151

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years 40.3% net bonus for £20,000+ ¶£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings §Taxable but cred in full **Tiered rates apply.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Royal Life ....Level	£10,217	£11,343	£12,871
Prudential............Level	£10,306	£11,323	£12,693
Canada Life ....Level	£10,130	£11,297	£12,878
Stalwart * ....Level	£10,128	£11,183	£12,297
MGM Assurance Level	£10,093	£11,154	£12,605

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Royal Life ....Level	£9,492	£10,319	£11,540
Prudential ....Level	£9,552	£10,285	£11,361
MGM Assurance ..Level	£9,360	£10,113	£11,229
Canada Life ....Level	£9,193	£10,034	£11,265
Sun Lf of Canada Level	£9,230	£9,970	£11,063

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Prudential ....Level	£9,174	£9,752	£10,571
Royal Life ....Level	£9,040	£9,673	£10,581
Stalwart * ....Level	£8,990	£9,651	£10,420
MGM Assurance ..Level	£8,976	£9,568	£10,438
Canada Life ....Level	£8,890	£9,547	£10,478

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at March 21, 1996

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.75
	10,000	AIG Life	4.85
	20,000	AIG Life	4.95
	50,000	AIG Life	5.10
2 Years			
	5,000	Financial Assur	5.25
	10,000	Premium Life	5.50
	20,000	Premium Life	5.60
	50,000	Premium Life	5.70
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.00
	5,000	Financial Assur	5.50
	10,000	Premium Life	5.75
	20,000	Premium Life	5.80
	50,000	Premium Life	5.95
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.30
	5,000	Financial Assur	5.85
	10,000	Premium Life	6.15
	50,000	Premium Life	6.30
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.60
	5,000	Financial Assur	6.20
	10,000	Premium Life	6.50
	50,000	Premium Life	6.75

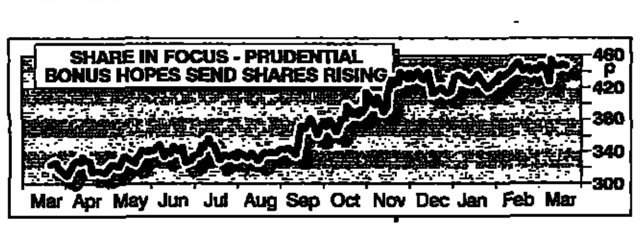
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	95.47	9.813	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	116.88	9.936	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	131.11	9.903	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	135.57	9.850	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	129.71	10.008	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	123.66	9.784	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	111.56	10.526	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	91.18	9.597	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	122.44	9.625	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	140.58	9.689	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	134.49	9.929	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	111.88	9.598	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	131.22	9.601	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	133.90	9.411	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	131.66	9.764	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/03-28/09)	9.24766%	103.63	100.00	1,000
First Nat(20/033-20/09)	9.30000%	100.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.95	£15k+	90	Fxd to 31.1.97
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	0.99	to £100k	90	6.25% discount to 1.5.97
Yorkshire 0800 378836	0.99	to £150k	95	6% dsc-6 mth, 2% dsc-18 mths
Banks				
Barclays 0800 494999	3.50	£15k+	90	3.75% discount for 12 months
Nat West 0800 400999	1.75	£15k+	90	5.50% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Fixed to 30.11.96
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.11	to £150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 months
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	to £150k	70	Fixed for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.75%dsc-6 mth 4.49%dsc-6 mth
Nat West 0800 400999	1.75	£15k+	90	5.50% discount for 12 mths

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.71	£15k+	95	6.54% disc 6 mth, 2.50% disc 6 mths
Halifax 01422 333333	2.25	any	95	5% discount to 30.4.97
Brad & Bingley 01274 555555	3.19	£30k+	95	3.80% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% discount for 6 months
TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.51	£15k+	95	3.74% discount for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	521.00	551.40	+ 1.90	...
UK Equity	656.10	694.30	+ 2.60	...
Property	519.70	550.00	+ 0.60	...
Fixed Interest	354.20	374.90	- 0.30	...
Money	263.00	278.40	+ 0.20	..
International	458.90	485.70	+ 2.30	...
ABBEY LIFE				
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	187.50	197.40	+ 1.60	...
Ethical S4	152.40	160.50	+ 1.70	...
International S4	217.20	228.70	+ 1.60	...
Protected Gth S4	120.30	126.70	+ 0.10	...
Asian Pacific	216	227.40	- 4.30	...
European S4	201	211.60	+ 1.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	374.80	394.60	+ 0.10	...
Equity Ser 4	256.30	269.80	- 3.30	...
Man Ser 4	750.10	789.60	- 8.00	...
Conv Ser 4	344.90	363.10	+ 0.20	...
Money Ser 4	344.50	362.70	+ 0.30	..
Fixed Int Ser 4	368	387.40	+ 1.10	...
American Ser 4	610.80	643	- 1.00	
High Inc Ser 4	772.20	812.90	+ 9.00	..
Indexed Inv Ser 4	221	232.70	+ 0.30	...
Japan Ser 4	360.70	379.70	- 4.00	...
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1792.50	1886.80	-19.90	...
European Fd Acc	431.90	454.60	+ 5.40	...
Fixed Int Acc	536.80	565.00	+ 1.30	...
Gtd Money Acc	351.30	369.70	+ 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	702.20	739.20	-12.80	..
Int Fxd Int Acc	359.60	378.50	+ 0.10	...
Japan Fund	266.40	280.30	- 4.90	...
N American Acc	398.60	419.60	- 3.90	...
Prop Fd Acc	454.70	478.60	- 2.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1163.30	1224.50	+10.80	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	392.60	413.30	- 0.30	...
Equity Acc	1639.30	1725.60	+20.60	...
Property Acc	613.90	646.30	+ 0.50	..
Far East Acc	347.20	365.50	+ 7.70	
Managed Capital	594.20	625.50	+ 6.10	...
-do- Acc	1250.00	1315.80	+13.20	.
Overseas Acc	1107.60	1165.90	+15.20	.
Gilt Edged Acc	519.30	546.70	...	
Amer Equity Acc	1028.30	1082.50	- 3.70	...
Amer Mon Acc	433.00	455.80	- 1.60	...
Amer Prop Acc	117.00	123.20	- 0.40	.
Distribution Bonds	24.30	25.60	+ 0.10	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	170.70	179.60	+ 0.40	...
Balncd Ser 6	813.70	856.50	- 7.70	..
Opportunity Ser 6	186.70	196.50	- 2.10	...
Distribution Ser 6	101.50	106.80	+ 0.40	7.12
UK Equities Ser 6	1145.90	1206.20	+13.10	.
Higher Inc Ser 6	1192.20	1254.90	-12.80	.
North Amer Ser 6	594.90	626.20	- 0.90	..
Far East Ser 6	618.20	650.70	+ 9.30	..
Europe Ser 6	456.70	480.70	- 3.10	..
Intnl Ser 6	668.00	703.10	+ 5.80	..
Property Ser 6	579.50	610.00	- 0.10	..
Fixed Int Ser 6	474.10	499.00	+ 2.60	..
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	189.30	199.30	- 0.30	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	313.30	329.70	+ 0.30	..
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	979.80	1031.40	+ 8.70	...
-do- Initial	619.40	652.10	+ 5.50	...
Gilt Edged Acc	409.60	431.20	+ 1.60	.
-do- Initial	261.20	275.00	+ 1.00	...
International Acc	456.40	480.50	- 3.60	...
-do- Initial	289.20	304.50	- 2.30	...
Managed Acc	595.80	627.20	+ 4.50	..
-do- Initial	378.90	398.90	+ 2.90	..
Money Acc	306.20	322.40	+ 0.30	...
Property Acc	308.50	324.80	- 0.20	...
-do- Initial	194.90	205.20		...
America Acc	362.60	381.70	+ 3.90	...
Australia Acc	247.90	261.00	+ 1.00	...
Financial Acc	425.00	447.40	+ 6.70	...
900 Accum	502.60	529.10	+ 4.40	...
Japan Genl Acc	307.10	323.30	- 1.30	.
Income Acc	589.90	621.00	+ 2.60	...
Leisure Acc	307.60	323.80	- 2.50	...
Special Sits Acc	293.60	309.10	+ 3.50	...
Univ Tech Acc	182.30	191.80	+ 1.10	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	910.58	910.58	+ 9.16	..
Income Fund	850.97	895.76	+ 8.77	...
Extra Income	778.05	819	+ 7.51	..
Worldwide Gth	552.49	581.57	+ 7.09	.
Balanced Fund	755.57	795.34	+ 7.19	.
Smllr Cos Recov	943.21	992.86	+ 7.48	...
N Amer & Genrl	440.19	463.36	- 3.81	..
Pacific Basin	470.10	494.85	+14.87	...
German Growth	256.69	270.20	+ 2.51	...
Japan Growth	191.97	202.08	+ 5.05	...
The UK Gth Fd	244.06	256.91	+ 1.97	.
Contl Euro Gth	158.51	166.86	+ 1.44	...
Property Fund	413.52	435.29	+ 0.69	...
Fixed Interest	336.51	354.23	- 1.13	...
Cash Fund	297.41	313.07	+ 0.23	...
Managed Inv	546.93	575.72	+ 5.70	..
Nth Amer Recov	311.54	327.94	+ 3.65	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	535.14	563.31	+ 2.28	...
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE				
PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 01475 888000				
Measured Perf	189.70	199.60	+ 3.70	...
Performance Plus	206.90	218.90	+ 3.10	...
With Profits Perf	180.70	191.20	+ 0.20	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	218.30	230.90	+ 2.80	...
Euro Opportunity	251.90	266.50	+ 3.80	...
North Amer Opp	213.00	225.30	+ 4.90	...
Far East Opp	223.70	236.70	+ 5.30	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	161.00	169.40	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	197.70	209.20	+ 0.70	...
Fixed Int	212.30	224.60	+ 0.50	...
Cash	166.40	176.00	+ 0.10	6.49
Overseas	238.40	252.20	+ 3.50	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	400.30	421.40	+ 4.90	...
UK Equity	662.20	697.10	+ 0.60	...
Property	262.30	276.20	+ 0.70	...
Money Market	264.40	278.40	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	313.00	329.50	- 0.80	...
Japan	364.60	383.80	+ 6.90	...
North America	194.90	205.20	+ 1.90	...
International	381.00	401.10	+ 5.80	...
European	329.60	347.00	+ 4.40	...
Far East	161.20	169.70	+ 4.10	...
CANADA LIFE				
24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth ‡	277.80	...	...	...
Managed	378.70	398.70	+ 2.30	...
Property	249.40	262.60	...	..
Gilt & Fxd Int	256.10	269.60	- 0.10	...
Equity	432.70	455.50	+ 2.90	...
Cash	226.70	238.70	+ 0.90	...
CLife Euro Mgd	439.60	462.80	+ 0.90	...
CLife Intl Fd	407.30	428.80	- 3.80	...
Managed Fund	809.70	852.30	+ 6.20	...
Property Fund	521.60	549.10	+ 0.80	...
Equity Fund	1072.30	1128.70	+ 7.70	...
Gilt Edged Fd	655.80	690.30	+ 1.90	...
Deposit Fund	351.30	369.80	...	..
Investment Fd	457.40	480.20	+ 3.50	...
International	624.20	657.00	+ 4.90	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	166.30	175.10	...	...
Managed Fund	714.70	752.40	+ 5.40	...
Equity Fund	414.90	436.80	+ 2.90	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	328.60	345.90	+ 3.20	...
Ruby	199.10	209.60	+ 3.00	.
Emerald	152.00	160.10	+ 0.30	...
Equity	378.10	398.10	+ 4.30	...
Property	233.50	245.80	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	216.70	228.20	+ 0.60	...
Indexed Secs	174.70	183.90	+ 0.20	...
Cash	197.50	208.00	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	293.50	309.00	+ 1.00	...
Far East	354.70	373.40	+ 2.40	...
International	277.00	291.60	+ 2.50	...
Special Sits	422.00	444.30	+ 8.30	...
Intl Income	334.40	352.10	+ 2.10	...
American Inc	241.00	253.70	- 1.80	...
European	387.50	407.90	+ 4.30	...
Japanese	140.20	147.60	- 0.30	...
SE Asia	412.30	434.00	+10.80	..
With Profits Reg	178.60	188.10	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	178.60	188.10	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	383.60	403.80	+ 4.70	...
Equity	465.80	490.40	+ 6.50	...
Property	214.30	225.60	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	277.20	291.80	+ 1.70	...
Index Linked	185.10	194.90	+ 0.20	...
Cash	268.40	282.60	+ 0.40	..
Nth American	372.20	391.80	+ 1.70	...
Far East Acc	337.40	355.20	+ 4.40	...
International Acc	352.70	371.30	+ 3.70	..
Special Sits	636.10	669.60	+11.80	..
European Flex	551.00	580.00	+ 4.20	..
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Unitsr) Key ‡	232.63	...	..	.
-do- Pacemaker ‡	345.26	...	...	..
-do- Cash	212.71	223.91	+ 0.14	..
-do- Equity	620.16	652.80	+ 8.69	
-do- Fxd Int	379.39	399.36	+ 1.39	...
-do- Managed	442.96	466.27	+ 5.71	..
-do- Property	295.64	311.20	+ 3.63	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	212.89	224.11	+ 0.06	...
-do- Cash Inv	326.14	343.31	+ 0.32	..
-do- Equity Cap	£16.19	£17.04	+23.82	..
-do- Equity Inv	£24.81	£26.11	+38.22	...
-do- Fixed Cap	410.03	431.62	+ 1.57	..
-do- Fixed Inv	628.15	661.22	+ 2.86	...
-do- Index Cap	202.33	212.99	+ 0.10	...
-do- Index Inv	309.95	326.28	+ 0.36	...
-do- Mngd Cap	649.34	683.52	+ 8.79	...
-do- Mngd Inv	994.75	£10.47	+14.17	..
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (9) ‡	836.05	.	+12.26	...
Var Ann (9) ‡	103.25	...	+ 1.33	.
Prime Managed	455.40	479.40	+ 6.90	...
Prime UK Equity	562.10	591.70	+ 9.80	...
Prime Intl Equity	337.40	355.20	+ 3.80	...
Prime Property	257.30	270.90	+ 0.30	.
Prime Fxd Int	246.80	259.80	+ 0.80	..
Prime Index-Lnk	176.40	185.70	- 0.10	...
Prime Cash	215.60	227.00	+ 0.10	..
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744940				
Managed Fund	1228.50	1293.10	-13.80	...
Equity II	1772.60	1865.80	-26.60	.
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham. GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) ‡	104.30	..	+ 0.10	.
Secure (2) ‡	102.80	..	- 0.10	...
Managed (3) ‡	108.80	..	+ 1.20	...
Equity Mngd (3) ‡	108.60	...	+ 1.40	...
Adventurous (3) ‡	107.80	...	- 0.90	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bristol & West (2) ‡	103.40	...	+ 0.10	...
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) ‡	102.00	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) ‡	101.50	...	- 0.20	...
Managed (2) ‡	104.30	...	+ 1.40	...
Equity Mngd (2) ‡	105.20	...	+ 1.70	...
Adventurous (2) ‡	105.30	...	+ 1.10	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	101.80	...	- 0.10	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND				
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	330.30	342.20	+ 0.10	2.66
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	347.30	365.60	+ 3.30	...
UK Equity	467.20	491.80	+ 5.20	...
Stewardship	415.60	437.50	+ 2.00	...
Overseas Equity	330.20	347.60	+ 3.40	...
North American	185.20	195.00	+ 0.50	...
Pacific Basin	181.50	191.10	+ 3.50	...
European	276.20	290.80	+ 4.00	...
Property	181.70	191.30	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	252.70	266.10	+ 1.10	...
Index Linked	175.10	184.40	- 0.20	...
Cash	211.10	222.30	+ 0.30	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	571.90	602.00	- 0.10	...
Managed	774.50	815.20	+ 4.00	...
Deposit	359.40	378.30	+ 0.20	...
Property	477.00	502.10	+ 0.50	...
American	520.50	547.80	+ 2.20	...
Australian	614.20	646.50	+ 1.10	...
European	663.20	698.10	+ 4.90	...
Income Acc	840.10	884.30	+ 7.70	...
-do- Dist	481.20	506.50	+ 5.60	5.10
International	355.10	373.70	+ 2.20	...
Japan Smaller	450.60	474.30	+ 2.90	...
Singapore & Mal	444.40	467.70	+ 5.00	...
Smaller Cos	466.40	490.90	+ 2.40	...
Tokyo Fund	662.40	697.20	+ 4.30	...
UK Equity	649.90	684.10	+ 3.40	.
CCM Vangd Mg	852.00	896.80	+ 4.40	..
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	345.70	363.90	+ 8.10	
GT Plan Wwide	546.70	575.50	+ 7.00	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	770.30	770.30	+ 5.60	...
-do- Inv A	770.20	810.90	+ 5.90	.
UK Equity	462.90	487.40	+ 5.90	.
Gilt Plus	214.50	225.90	+ 0.60	..
Managed	345.70	364.00	+ 2.70	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	238.20	250.70	+ 2.60	..
Unitised Profit	149.70	157.60	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	332.20	349.60	+ 4.80	
Fixed Int	205.30	216.00	+ 0.60	..
Index-Linked	171.00	179.90	+ 0.20	...
Cash Deposit	182.60	192.10	+ 0.10	...
Property	182.50	192.00	+ 0.10	...
International	195.10	205.20	+ 1.40	...
American	207.60	218.60	- 0.20	..
Japan	238.20	250.60	+ 1.50	...
Japan Smllr Cos	243.90	256.60	+ 1.50	...
European	211.10	222.10	+ 1.40	...
Pacific Fund	318.10	334.80	+ 5.90	...
Conv Life	144.10	151.60	+ 1.40	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	543.00	571.60	+ 5.90	..
Managed Initial	351.10	369.60	+ 3.60	...
Equity Ord	838.70	882.80	+12.10	...
Equity Init	542.30	570.80	+ 7.50	..
I-Linked Gilt Ord	208.10	219.10	+ 0.30	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	140.50	147.90	...	...
Oseas Equity Ord	439.80	462.90	+ 3.30	...
Oseas Equity Init	284.40	299.40	+ 2.10	..
Property Ord	279.70	294.40	+ 0.20	..
Property Init	180.80	190.30	...	...
Fixed Int Ord	299.80	315.60	- 1.00	..
Fixed Int Init	193.80	204.00	+ 0.40	.
Deposit Ord	217.30	228.70	+ 0.10	...
Deposit Initial	140.50	147.90	.	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE				
Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	830.80	868.50	...	...
Managed Initial	519.50	546.90	+ 4.10	...
-do- Acc	762.80	802.90	+ 6.30	...
Equity Initial	797.00	839.00	+ 6.80	.
-do- Acc	1170.20	1231.70	+10.40	..
Fixed Int Initial	452.70	476.60	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc	664.70	699.70	+ 0.40	...
Intl Initial	513.20	540.20	+ 1.50	.
-do- Acc	753.40	793.00	+ 5.40	...
Nth Amer Initial	233.80	246.10	- 0.70	...
-do- Acc	312.30	328.80	- 0.80	...
Pacific Initial	249.40	262.50	+ 3.60	...
-do- Acc	330.00	347.40	+ 5.00	...
Property Initial	177.10	186.40	...	...
-do- Acc	259.60	273.30	...	...
Index-Lnkd Intl	160.80	169.30	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc	214.90	226.20	...	...
Deposit Initial	202.20	212.90	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	296.90	312.50	+ 0.20	...
Euro Initial	121.00	127.40	+ 0.40	...
-do- Acc	149.40	157.30	+ 0.50	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD				
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	28.41	29.91	+ 0.22	...
Balanced	28.94	30.46	+ 0.26	..
Opportunity	29.76	31.33	+ 0.29	...
Deposit	24.83	26.14	+ 0.02	..
Pension Funds				
Foundation	29.26	30.80	+ 0.24	...
Balanced	29.43	30.98	+ 0.32	..
Opportunity	30.47	32.07	+ 0.44	..
Deposit	25.24	26.57	+ 0.02	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
HAMBRO ASSURED				
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	191.40	201.40	+ 1.60	...
-do- Pens	242.20	254.90	+ 2.50	...
UK Equity	199.50	209.90	+ 1.90	...
-do- Pens	236.40	248.80	+ 2.90	...
International	169.10	178.00	+ 2.20	...
-do- Pens	188.30	198.20	+ 3.00	...
Deposit	146.00	153.60	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	175.70	184.90	+ 0.20	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION				
3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 0171 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	396.50	421.90	+ 1.70	...
North America	459.80	489.20	+ 0.60	...
Far East Fund	638.70	679.50	+15.70	...
Global Managed	535.10	569.30	+ 4.80	...
Deposit Fund	240.50	253.20	...	...
Prime Residential	135.90	143.00	- 0.50	...
European Fund	312.00	332.00	+ 2.30	...
Fixed Interest	66.50	70.80	- 0.10	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE				
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	626.90	663.40	+ 8.50	...
British Fund	621.90	658.10	+ 7.50	...
International	633.60	670.50	+ 4.10	...
Dollar Fund	509.50	539.20	- 2.00	...
Capital Fund	562.40	595.20	+ 5.80	..
Income Fund	790.10	836.10	+ 9.40	..
Property Series A	471.40	498.90	...	4.50
Property Units	780.30	819.40	...	...
Financial Fund	704.70	745.80	+16.20	..
Managed Ser A	621.50	657.70	+ 5.30	...
Managed Units	1117.70	1176.60	+ 9.60	...
High Yield Fund	713.30	754.90	+ 7.20	...
Money Series A	304.00	321.70	+ 0.20	...
Money Units	404.90	426.30	+ 0.40	..
Equity Fund	717.70	759.50	+ 7.30	.
Fixed Interest	390.00	412.70	- 0.20	...
Indexed Secs	195.10	206.50	+ 0.90	...
European Fund	871.50	922.30	+ 6.30	...
Natural Res	362.10	383.20	+ 2.40	...
Far East Fund	712.10	753.60	+11.00	..
Smaller Cos	584.60	618.70	+ 6.10	..
Special Sits	576.00	609.60	+12.00	...
Man Currency	281.80	298.30	...	...
Japanese Tech	314.60	333.00	- 1.80	.
US Smaller Cos	379.20	400.30	+ 2.00	.
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	261.20	275.10	+ 0.20	..
Financial Ser 1	57.20	61.20	+ 1.40	...
Fixed Interest	348.00	366.40	+ 1.60	.
Gold	102.50	108.00	.	..
Managed	693.40	730.00	+ 6.70	..
Mngd Growth	224.20	236.10	+ 2.40	..
Mngd Opp	237.30	249.80	+ 2.60	..
Property	332.10	349.60	+ 1.40	...
Residential Prop	105.50	111.10	...	...
TSB American	269.10	283.30	- 1.10	.
TSB Brit Gwth	1001.60	1054.40	+11.40	.
TSB European	316.60	333.40	+ 2.80	..
TSB Income	432.30	455.20	+ 6.50	..
TSB Intl	484.90	510.50	+ 3.20	..
TSB Intl Inc	318.60	335.40	+ 0.30	..
TSB Pacific	451.70	475.60	+10.70	..
TSB Prem Inc	270.10	282.20	+ 0.90	.
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE				
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3TF. 01727 46181				
Global Managed	650.00	684.20	+ 3.70	..
Global Property	315.30	331.80	...	..
Global Fixed Int	544.20	572.80	+ 2.50	...
Global Equity	707.40	744.60	+ 4.30	..
Global Cash	225.10	236.90	+ 0.20	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE				
Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371				
Property	501.60	527.90	- 0.60	..
Managed	471.20	495.90	+ 3.30	...
American	525.00	552.60	- 1.50	..
UK Equity Fd	515.40	542.50	+ 4.80	..
Japan	217.80	229.30	+ 2.70	..
Index-Lkd	191.10	201.10	+ 0.20	..
High Yield	955.30	1005	+ 7.50	..
Money	423.20	445.40	+ 0.10	.
International	450.20	473.80	+ 2.80	..
Henderson Active	235.90	248.30	+ 1.10	..
Perpetual Active	373.90	393.50	+ 4.40	...
Growth Acc	735.00	773.60	+ 5.00	...
Gilt Edged	453.10	476.90	- 1.40	...
European	174.70	183.80	+ 0.10	...
Far East	234.70	247.00	+ 3.60	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE				
2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	..	.
-do- Acc	194.20	204.50	+ 0.10	..
Brit Opps Ins	165.20	173.90	+ 1.50	..
-do- Acc	212.90	224.20	+ 2.00	...
Cash Initial	169.70	178.70	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	303.30	319.30	+ 0.30	..
Equity Initial	743.20	782.40	+ 8.80	..
-do- Acc	1328.40	1398.40	+15.70	...
Fixed Initial	355.70	374.50	+ 1.40	..
-do- Acc	635.70	669.20	+ 2.40	..
Index-Lnkd Gilt	133.60	140.70	+ 0.10	..
-do- Acc	203.80	214.60	+ 0.20	..
Intl Initial	357.60	376.50	- 3.60	...
-do- Acc	629.20	662.40	+ 6.20	...
Managed Initial	523.70	551.30	+ 4.90	...
-do- Acc	936.00	985.30	+ 8.90	.
Property Initial	221.10	232.80	- 0.30	...
-do- Acc	395.20	416.00	+ 0.60	...
LINCOLN NATIONAL				
The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	14915	.	+159.00	..
Property Units ‡	£26.97	...	...	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	7461	7853	+68.00	...
2nd Equity Acc	706.70	743.90	+ 7.90	.
2nd High Inc Ac	684.40	720.40	+ 8.20	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
2nd Property Acc	245.80	258.70	+ 1.10	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	194.60	204.80	+ 0.40	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	520.60	548.00	+ 4.60	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	262.40	276.20	+ 2.00	...
2nd Deposit Acc	298.30	314.00	+ 0.20	...
2nd Gilt Acc	321.60	338.60	+ 1.20	...
2nd Amer Acc	876.30	922.40	- 1.50	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	274.20	288.70	- 2.60	...
2nd Index Acc	213.70	224.90	+ 0.10	...
2nd Far East Acc	482.20	507.60	+ 7.90	...
2nd Global Acc	198.90	209.30	+ 1.20	...
2nd Euro Acc	182.40	192.00	+ 0.10	...
2nd Japan Acc	192.40	202.50	+ 2.10	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	175.30	184.50	- 0.80	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	140.70	148.10	+ 1.00	...
LONDON LIFE				
100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0117 9279179				
Equity ‡	£10.02	...	+15.00	...
Fixed Interest ‡	453.00	...	+ 1.20	...
Property ‡	434.40	...	+ 0.60	...
Deposit ‡	308.80	...	+ 0.20	...
Mixed ‡	666.00	...	+ 7.00	...
Indexed Stock ‡	222.80	...	+ 0.40	...
International ‡	337.90	...	+ 2.00	...
Equity A ‡	232.30	...	+ 3.50	...
Fixed Int A ‡	200.70	...	+ 0.60	...
Property A ‡	190.60	...	+ 0.20	...
Deposit A ‡	181.30	...	+ 0.20	...
Mixed A ‡	218.50	...	+ 2.30	...
Index Stock A ‡	174.20	...	+ 0.30	...
International A ‡	210.80	...	+ 1.30	...
Equity P ‡	842.90	...	+18.10	...
Fixed Int P ‡	607.80	...	+ 1.80	...
Property P ‡	338.80	..	+ 0.50	...
Deposit P ‡	369.00	...	+ 0.20	...
Mixed P ‡	620.60	...	+ 8.10	.
Index Stock P ‡	256.90	...	+ 0.50	...
International P ‡	402.70	...	+ 3.60	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE				
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 283456				
Inv Trust Cap ‡	610.40	...	+ 1.70	...
-do- Acc ‡	1082.50	...	+ 3.90	...
Property Cap ‡	142.50	..	...	...
-do- Acc ‡	242.00	...	+ 0.20	...
Fxd Interest Cap ‡	195.60	...	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc ‡	334.50	...	+ 1.30	...
Equity Cap ‡	347.00	...	+ 2.00	...
-do- Acc ‡	602.90	..	+ 4.00	.
Internatl Cap ‡	250.60	..	+ 2.50	...
-do- Acc ‡	430.80	...	+ 4.70	...
Gtd Deposit Cap ‡	162.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc ‡	275.50	.	+ 0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap ‡	366.30	...	+ 2.30	..
-do- Acc ‡	614.30	...	+ 4.40	...
Moneymaker Fd ‡	489.00	...	+ 3.50	...
Capital Growth ‡	1980.40	...	+14.90	...
M & G				
Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	541.20	568.40	- 3.00	..
Amer Rec Bond	582.80	612.00	- 5.90	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	284.80	299.10	+ 0.70	...
Australasia Bd	268.50	282.00	+ 3.70	...
Commodity Bond	408.20	428.70	+ 7.90	...
Deposit Bond Acc	379.70	398.80	+ 0.40	...
Equity Bond Acc	1711.80	1797.50	+25.40	...
European Bd Acc	474.30	498.10	+ 6.70	..
Extra Yld Bd Acc	840.90	883.10	+14.20	...
Far East Bd Acc	343.60	360.90	+ 6.70	..
Gilt Bond Acc	463.10	486.30	+ 2.30	...
Gold Bond Acc	198.60	208.60	+ 0.50	...
High Yield Bond	365.50	383.90	+ 5.80	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	215.40	226.30	+ 0.20	...
International Bd	881.00	925.10	+ 9.90	...
Japan Bond Acc	244.90	257.20	+ 1.20	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	231.90	243.60	+ 1.60	...
Managed Bonds	994.80	1044.60	+ 8.00	...
Prop Bond Acc	375.20	394.00	+ 3.00	...
Rec Bond Acc	893.80	938.60	+21.80	..
MGM ASSURANCE				
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	252.90	266.30	+ 2.10	...
UK Equity Acc	373.40	393.10	+ 3.50	...
Special Sits	104.10	109.60	+ 0.80	
Special Sits Acc	153.70	161.80	+ 1.20	..
North American	220.50	232.20	- 0.10	...
N American Acc	325.60	342.80	+ 0.10	...
Pacific Basin	380.40	400.50	+ 5.00	...
Pacific Basin Acc	561.60	591.20	+ 7.60	...
Fixed Interest	289.20	304.50	+ 0.70	...
Fixed Interest Acc	427.40	449.90	+ 1.10	...
Property	179.50	189.00	+ 0.10	...
Property Acc	265.30	279.30	+ 0.30	...
Deposit	153.80	161.90	...	...
Deposit Acc	227.30	239.30	+ 0.10	...
Managed	286.40	301.50	+ 1.90	...
Managed Acc	389.80	410.40	+ 3.00	..
MERCHANT INVESTORS				
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	424.60	446.90	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	409.60	431.10	+ 2.10	...
Gilt Edged	613.00	645.20	+ 0.30	...
Interest Fund	415.70	437.50	+ 0.30	...
Managed Fd	540.00	568.40	+ 3.70	...
Intl Equity	667.80	702.90	+ 4.60	...
North American	256.10	269.50	+ 1.40	...
Far East	489.70	515.40	+ 3.30	...
Intl Currency	264.70	278.60	- 2.20	...
NPI				
48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	558.80	588.20	+ 6.30	...
UK Equity	718.10	755.80	+ 8.50	...
Overseas Equity	561.50	591.00	+ 8.00	...
Americas	516.20	543.30	+ 6.00	...
Far East	638.30	671.80	+10.20	...
Property	217.60	229.20	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	418.40	440.40	+ 1.10	...
Indexed Gilt	240.30	253.10	+ 0.20	...
Deposit	228.20	240.20	+ 0.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds				
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1651.10	1738.00	+15.90	...
Equity Fund	3647.10	3839.10	+47.00	...
Property Fd	604.80	636.60	+ 2.60	...
Fixed Int Fd	639.60	673.30	+ 1.90	...
Deposit Fund	369.30	388.70	+ 0.20	...
Intl Fund	285.20	300.20	+ 2.00	...
OLD MUTUAL				
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	334.30	352.70	+ 3.90	...
Fxd Interest Acc	253.00	266.90	- 0.60	...
International Acc	269.50	284.30	+ 1.70	...
Managed Acc	242.50	255.90	+ 2.70	...
Property Acc	219.20	231.30	+ 0.20	...
Money Acc	162.60	171.60	+ 0.10	...
Spec Mkt Acc	245.70	259.20	+ 5.30	...
Japan Equity Acc	125.90	132.90	+ 1.20	...
N Amer Acc	180.40	190.30	+ 0.80	...
Pacific Acc	169.80	179.20	+ 3.70	...
European Acc	218.60	230.60	+ 1.30	...
PEARL ASSURANCE				
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	145.30	153.00	+ 0.10	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	325.90	343.10	+ 0.30	...
Inv Equity	1383.20	1456.10	+13.30	...
Inv Managed	965.00	1015.80	+ 7.80	...
Ret Managed	1100.80	1158.80	+ 9.80	...
For Provident Mutual see General Accident				
PRUDENTIAL				
Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	396.20	412.80	+ 2.50	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS				
1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	924.70	973.40	+ 9.00	...
Equity Fund	1781.70	1875.50	+22.20	...
Intl Fund	746.10	785.40	+ 6.60	...
Fixed Interest	606.00	637.90	+ 2.20	...
Property Fund	489.10	514.90	+ 0.10	...
Cash Fund	384.30	404.60	+ 0.30	...
Pacific Basin	415.70	437.60	+ 6.60	...
N American Fd	348.00	366.40	+ 0.40	...
Euro Fund	327.60	344.90	- 1.90	..
Balanced Fund	181.00	190.60	+ 1.70	...
Strategic Fund	195.60	205.90	+ 1.50	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE				
Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) ‡	814.80	...	...	...
-do- Acc	498.80	525.00	...	...
Op Prop	502.80	529.20	- 1.40	...
Op Equity	1144.20	1204.40	+ 8.10	...
Op High Yield	623.40	656.20	+ 2.90	...
Op Managed	929.90	978.80	+ 4.40	...
Op Deposit	413.40	435.10	+ 0.40	...
Inc Gth	344.20	362.30	+ 2.60	...
Japan Smlr	239.40	251.90	+ 0.10	...
Managed Gth	309.30	325.50	+ 2.10	...
Gilt	85.80	90.30	- 0.60	...
British	434.40	457.20	+ 3.00	...
Global Bond	128	134.70	- 0.80	...
Global Inc & Gth	192.40	202.50	+ 1.10	...
Gold Share	101	106.30	+ 3.00	...
High Income	323.30	340.30	+ 0.20	...
Income	507	533.60	+ 6.90	...
Japan	413	434.70	-16.10	...
UK Smlr Cos	434.30	457.10	+ 4.00	...
Mngd Growth	524.90	552.50	+ 2.10	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE				
New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	1111.60	1176.20	+ 8.80	...
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	438.60	461.60	+ 3.40	...
Equity Fund	632.90	666.20	+ 4.80	...
Property Fund	341.50	359.40	+ 1.10	...
International	552.90	581.90	+ 4.70	...
Pacific Basin	295.30	310.60	+ 3.00	...
United States	336	353.60	+ 4.40	...
Gilt Fund	391	411.50	- 0.20	...
SAVE & PROSPER				
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	849.40	894.90	+ 4.90	2.18
Deposit Fund (2)	395.60	418.70	+ 0.30	6.61
Gilt Fund	556.80	589.30	+ 1.70	8.12
Global Equity Fd	270.20	286.00	+ 3.40	...
Property Fund (46)	117.10	124.00	+ 0.40	7.29
AG Bond Fund	164.50	174.10	+ 2.90	..
SCOTTISH AMICABLE				
150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	684.80	720.90	+ 5.40	...
Fixed Interest	391.90	412.60	.	..
Index-Linked	203.10	213.80	...	...
International	525.20	552.90	+ 7.10	...
Property	303.70	319.70	+ 0.30	..
Cash	242.10	254.90	+ 0.10	...
Managed	572.70	590.80	+ 4.70	...
Cap Gteed Bd	132.00	139.00	+ 0.80	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE				
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	191.185	201.247	+ 0.15	...
Index-Linked	168.40	177.30	- 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	193.40	203.60	+ 0.10	...
Mixed	294.00	310.30	+ 3.60	...
UK Equity	279.80	294.60	+ 3.70	...
International	298.90	314.80	+ 2.20	...
American	332.30	349.80	+ 1.60	.
Japan	236.60	249.10	+ 1.00	...
European	312.30	328.70	+ 1.60	...
Pacific	395.30	416.20	+ 6.40	..
Technology	496.80	523.10	+ 2.00	...
Frgn Bd/Crncy	246.70	259.80	- 1.60	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	225.80	237.80	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	413.90	435.70	+ 7.60	...
American	317.70	334.50	+ 2.40	...
Pacific	386.40	406.80	+ 6.60	...
European	567.00	597.00	+ 3.90	...
International	365.30	384.60	+ 4.90	...
Fixed Interest	250.90	264.20	+ 0.80	...
Index Linked	204.80	215.70	+ 0.30	...
Deposit	205.40	216.30	+ 0.20	...
Managed	328.90	346.30	+ 4.70	...
Worldwide	141.50	149.10	+ 1.80	...
Pen Worldwide	154.50	162.70	+ 2.20	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE				
109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	1907.00	1966.00	...	...
Safety Fund	255.00	268.50	+ 1.10	...
Growth Fund	266.80	280.90	+ 3.20	...
Opportunity Fd	267.70	281.80	+ 3.20	...
Cash Fund	183.00	192.70	+ 0.10	...
European Fund	409.50	431.10	+ 2.80	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	213.40	224.70	+ 0.50	...
Index-Linked Fd	186.60	196.50	- 0.10	...
International Fd	325.50	342.70	+ 2.90	...
North American	293.40	308.90	+ 0.30	..
Property Fund	129.10	135.90	- 0.10	..
UK Equity	284.00	299.00	+ 4.00	...
UK Smaller	295.80	311.40	+ 4.30	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT				
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	312.20	328.70	+ 3.00	...
Equity	335.00	352.80	+ 3.90	...
International	305.60	321.80	+ 1.40	...
Property	236.00	248.50	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	235.40	247.80	+ 1.00	...
Index Linked	187.50	197.50	+ 0.20	...
Cash	195.70	206.10	+ 0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	928.70	988.00	+ 8.30	...
Cash Fund	356.00	375.20	+ 0.40	...
Property Fund	300.50	316.70	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	1050.40	1117.50	+ 7.50	...
Fxd Interest Fund	503.10	530.20	+ 1.70	...
International	438.20	466.20	+ 2.20	...
High Income	833.90	887.20	+ 9.30	.
Far East	632.80	673.20	+ 4.60	...
North American	705.00	750.00	+ 3.00	...
Special Sits	803.30	854.60	+12.10	..
Technology	1041.50	1108.00	+10.90	...
Extra Income Fd	450.90	479.70	+ 4.80	...
Gilt Fund	516.70	549.70	+ 0.60	..
European	174.40	185.60	+ 0.10	...
Adventurous Mg	272.80	287.20	+ 2.80	..
Secure Mgd	164.70	173.60	- 0.80	...
Equity Inc Dist	129.40	136.40	- 0.10	4.31
Managed Dist	119.30	125.80	+ 0.50	4.83
SCOTTISH WIDOWS				
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1136.30	1136.30	+13.50	..
Inv Pol 2	1029.40	1083.70	+12.90	...
Inv Pol 3	977.50	1029.10	+12.30	...
Inv Cash	332.40	350.00	+ 0.30	..
Mixed Fund	523.30	550.90	+ 9.00	...
Equity Fund	627.10	660.20	+16.60	...
Property Fund	251.20	264.60	- 0.30	...
International Fd	587.50	618.50	+ 7.40	..
Fixed Interest Fd	400.50	421.70	+ 1.30	..
Indexed Stock Fd	205.50	216.50	+ 0.30	...
Cash Fund	240.30	253.00	+ 0.30	...
SKANDIA LIFE				
Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	435.20	458.10	+ 3.80	...
Equity Acc	530.90	558.80	+ 5.20	...
International Acc	380.00	399.90	+ 4.20	...
Property	231.90	244.10	+ 0.20	..
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO				
3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 0131 225 2552				
Cash	282.30	297.20	+ 0.20	...
Equity	1185.80	1248.30	-13.20	...
European	192.40	202.60	+ 2.10	..
Far East	189.20	199.20	+ 3.90	..
Fixed Interest	426.20	448.70	- 0.10	..
Index Linked	218.80	230.40	- 0.30	...
International	699.60	736.50	+10.70	6.38
Managed	814.10	857.00	+ 9.60	...
Nth American	189.70	199.60	- 1.40	.
Property	377.10	397.00	- 0.10	.
Pensions				
Cash	447.40	471.00	+ 0.40	...
Equity	1793.80	1888.30	+23.40	...
European	237.50	250.10	+ 1.60	...
Far East	154.50	162.70	+ 3.80	...
Fixed Interest	603.10	634.90	+ 0.30	...
Index Linked	307.10	323.30	- 0.30	..
International	1026.30	1080.40	+14.80	...
Managed	1193.90	1256.80	+16.00	...
Nth American	246.10	259.10	- 1.60	..
Property	525.40	553.10	...	...
Stock Exchange	271.00	285.30	+ 3.00	..
SUN ALLIANCE				
St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	782.80	824.00	+ 8.10	...
Equity Fund	1041.90	1096.80	+11.50	...
Fixed Interest Fd	437.50	460.60	+ 1.40	...
Index-Linked Fd	332.10	349.60	...	...
Property Fund	525.00	552.70	+ 1.00	...
International Fd	776.70	819.70	+10.50	...
N American Fd	341.60	359.60	- 1.20	...
Far East Fund	264.80	278.80	+ 5.30	...
Deposit Fund	315.10	331.70	+ 0.20	...
Intnl Bd ‡	£10.10	...	+ 0.50	
Worldwide Bond	173.70	182.90		

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	202.10	212.80	+ 2.00	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	782.40	823.70	+12.00	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	526.00	560.30	+10.30	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund ‡	610.60	...	+ 1.10	...
-do- Acc ‡	567.00	...	+ 1.00	...
Agricultural Fd ‡	864.00	...	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc ‡	827.20	..	+ 0.60	...
Abbey Nat Fd ‡	459.50	...	+ 0.60	...
Abbey Nat Acc ‡	483.30	...	+ 0.60	...
Investment Fd ‡	418.60	...	+ 4.20	...
Investment (A) ‡	400.90	...	+ 4.00	...
Equity ‡	1525.60	...	+16.10	...
Equity Acc ‡	1456.30	..	+15.40	...
Money Fund ‡	505.40	...	+ 0.40	...
-do- Acc ‡	481.80	...	+ 0.40	...
Actuarial Fd ‡	686.50	...	+ 6.40	...
Gilt-Edged Fd ‡	411.10	...	+ 1.20	...
-do- Acc ‡	411.10	...	+ 1.20	...
Retire Annuity ‡	1287.50	...	...	...
Immed Annuity ‡	301.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life ‡	239.10	...	+ 0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA				
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc ‡	1679.30	...	+18.40	...
Managed Acc ‡	945.10	..	-16.30	...
Equity Account ‡	1370.80	...	-29.80	...
Mngd Fund Acc	432.10	454.80	- 7.90	...
Equity Fund Acc	594.90	626.30	-13.70	...
Prop Fund Acc	269.70	283.90	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	325.70	342.80	+ 5.80	...
Money Fund Acc	232.50	244.80	+ 0.10	...
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	212.80	224.00	- 2.40	...
Pers Pens Acc ‡	2162.30	...	+10.90	...
Pens Mngd Acc	1005.10	1058.00	+ 5.40	...
Pens Guarantee	279.10	293.80	+ 0.40	...
Pens Equity	388.40	408.90	+ 1.00	..
Pens Property	312.60	329.10	+ 0.20	...
Pens Fixed Int	308.90	325.10	+ 0.60	..
Pens Intl	288.90	304.10	+ 4.20	..
Pens Money	253.30	266.70	+ 0.30	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	205.30	216.20	+ 0.70	...
SUN LIFE UNIT				
St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1016.60	1070.20	+10.80	...
Property Acc	326.10	343.30	+ 8.50	...
Equity Acc	1687.20	1776.00	+20.30	..
Fixed Int Acc	430.00	452.70	- 0.60	...
Cash Acc	326.50	343.70	+ 0.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	487.40	513.10	- 0.40	...
Japan Acc	305.40	321.50	+ 6.10	..
Pacific Acc	415.40	437.30	+ 8.80	...
Far Eastern Acc	912.80	960.90	+16.30	...
International Acc	687.00	723.20	+ 6.40	..
Distribution Fund	290.60	305.90	+ 2.10	5.48
European	218.50	230.00	+ 0.50	...
Defrrd Dist	184.70	194.50	+ 0.50	..
TSB LIFE LTD				
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	324.20	341.30	+ 3.30	...
Property Fund	232.40	244.80	- 1.00	..
Fixed Interest Fd	240.60	253.40	+ 0.50	...
Money Fund	211.00	222.20	+ 0.10	..
Equity Fund	425.10	447.50	+ 5.00	..
WINDSOR LIFE				
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	796.20	839.00	+ 9.10	...
Money Fund	334.50	352.10	+ 0.20	...
Equity Fund	714.30	751.80	+12.60	..
Fixed Interest	298.60	314.30	- 3.90	.
Property Fund	347.80	366.10	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	700.40	738.00	+ 1.60	...
Income	855.90	901.90	+13.00	...
International Gth	717.10	755.60	+ 8.40	...
Capital Fund	734.70	774.20	+ 8.00	..
Recovery Fund	667.40	703.30	+ 9.00	..
Japan & General	268.30	282.70	+ 3.70	..
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	19.03	20.03	+ 0.01	...
Bear	21.63	22.77	+ 0.17	...
Owl	23.98	25.24	+ 0.25	...
Bull	20.57	21.65	+ 0.26	...
Stag	21.67	22.81	+ 0.32	.
Gilt Edged	19.92	20.97	+ 0.16	..
Deposit	16.55	17.42	+ 0.01	..
Pensions				
Squirrel	26.34	27.73	+ 0.03	..
Bear	30.08	32.29	+ 0.34	...
Owl	33.59	35.36	+ 0.48	...
Bull	27.33	28.77	+ 0.46	...
Stag	28.31	29.80	+ 0.52	..
Gilt Edged	25.60	26.95	+ 0.35	..
Deposit	21.80	22.95	+ 0.02	.
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	672.43	...	+ 8.42	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	399.09	420.09	+ 4.18	...
N Amer Equity	354.67	373.34	+ 0.65	...
Far East Equity	408.07	429.55	+ 5.41	...
Fixed	315.77	332.39	+ 2.56	...
Cash Deposit	215.87	227.23	+ 0.17	...
Property	151.20	159.16	+ 0.30	...
Special Opp	408.37	429.86	+ 5.90	..
Managed	354.48	373.14	+ 4.67	.
Index-Linked Fd	197.77	208.18	+ 0.98	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	674.40	709.20	+ 6.40	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	403.80	425.00	...	..
Life Equity Acc	952.10	1002.30	...	...
Life Money Acc	314.00	330.50	...	.
Life Inv Tst Acc	874.20	920.20	...	..
Life Intl Acc	557.70	586.50	...	..
Life High Inc Acc	895.00	941.30	...	..
Life Property Acc	254.40	267.70	...	..

هكذا من الأصل

Caroline Merrell looks at the options and notes some of the criticisms of Peps that return your capital

Guarantees available — but at what price?

The word guarantee has a peculiar allure for the public. For those unused to the ups and downs of the stock market, a guarantee can provide the extra reassurance they need to encourage them to switch money from their building society account.

Many fund management groups are now offering personal equity plans (Peps) which will guarantee to return your capital if they are held for a specified period, usually five or six years. The guarantee does not hold if the product is cashed in earlier.

Investors should be aware that these guarantees come at a price. You may be sacrificing some of the gains you could make on the stock market for the security.

For example, Sun Alliance is launching a lump-sum Pep which gives investors the option of taking out an insurance policy outside the Pep. Those who take out the policy will be are guaranteed to get back their capital plus the premium they paid for their insurance policy. There is also the potential of some capital growth on the Pep itself.

The premium costs 5 per cent of the investment — £300 on a maximum investment of £6,000. The rest of the money will be invested in corporate bonds which will aim to pay a high tax-free income. The Pep is currently yielding about 7 per cent, although this level of income is not guaranteed.

Sun Alliance expects to take at least £100million in to the Pep. It is extending the offer on the plan until the end of April to allow investors the opportunity of investing both this year's and next year's Pep allowance in to the plan. Keith Luckhoo, marketing services manager, said: "You are sacrificing the interest you would have earned investing the insurance premium in a building society account, in return for capital protection." He points out that the interest earned today on a building society account would be around the 4 per cent mark. "In effect you are paying £12 a year for the capital protection." He adds: "This product will give peace of mind to the huge number of building society investors who do not want to expose their capital."

The Pep, though, has drawn fire from John Spiers, Best Investment managing director. He has criticised the yield figure. "It does not take into account the amount you invest in the insurance premium." He also points out that the yield is not guaranteed at the 7 per cent level. Mr Luckhoo said: "We think the income will not fluctuate much from this."

All the other guaranteed Peps on offer rely on derivative instruments, called options, which are purchased using a proportion of the investment, usually about 3 to 5 per cent. The options are used to guarantee the return of capital, or the income level, over a certain period of time. Those companies offering Peps with some sort of guarantee include GAN, Edinburgh Fund Managers, Legal & General and General Accident.

GAN's guaranteed Pep, for instance, can provide a maximum income of 8 per cent a year tax free. If the Pep is held until the end of the six-year term, the original investment will be returned.

Investors are guaranteed an income of at least 4 per cent; the other 4 per cent is dependent on whether the FT-SE 100 index rises over the discrete one-year period starting from March 8. The GAN Pep is one of the few to offer some sort of guarantee on the income.

However, some advisers are sceptical about this guarantee.

Ian Millward, an adviser with Chase de Vere, a Pep specialist, said: "The market could easily rise one year and fall the next, bringing the yield down to 6 per cent, with no possibility of capital growth."

Sultan Jetha, development director and group actuary at Sun Alliance, said: "This Pep is aimed very much at security-conscious investors who demand capital protection."

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Overwhelmed by demand

The Bristol & West Building Society has suspended processing of applications for Direct Access instant access, 90-day notice postal and high-interest cheque accounts after being overwhelmed by applications.

Earlier this month, the West Bromwich Building Society suspended applications for its Direct Instant telephone and postal instant access account. Neither society can guarantee that when they resume sending forms, users of the forms will get the rate currently being offered.

Savers seeking a good variable rate with easy access targeted the societies, consistently top of best-buy tables. The West Bromwich was paying 6 per cent gross on a minimum investment of £2,000 in its instant access account, and 6.75 per cent on £100,000 or more. The Bristol & West halved its minimum instant access balance to £5,000, on which it was paying 5.35 per cent gross, rising to 5.85 per cent on £100,000.

■ Bristol & West. Those who have received an application form should fill it in and return it, and interest at the current best-buy variable rate will be backdated to when cheques are received if processing is delayed.

Savers who have not yet received application forms will not do so until the suspension ends.

■ West Bromwich. Forms already sent out or back will be processed and the current rate honoured, backdated to when the investment is received.

SARA MCCONNELL

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TIM 23/03/96

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Sources 1: HSW Ltd: 29/3/91 to 31/1/96. 2: Financial Times Actuaries 3: Hoare Govett Smaller Companies Index excluding Investment Trusts total return. Albert E Sharp Smaller Companies Unit Trust is managed by Albert E Sharp Fund Managers Ltd on behalf of Albert E Sharp. Albert E Sharp Fund Managers Ltd is regulated by IMRO. Albert E Sharp is regulated by SFA. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Value of units and income from them can fall as well as rise.

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ALBERT E SHARP – a name worth talking to

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Is this the 'best' so far in the sorry tale of friendly society policy maturity value?

From Mr B.E. Danton

Sir, Further to the correspondence from Mr Brabbin and Mr Bryant concerning the maturity value of friendly society policies, (Weekend Money Letters, Why we need to champion the small investor against friendly societies, March 2, and Friendly rivalry in maturity, March 16) I think I can claim the "best" so far.

I have just received notification from Family Assurance that my ten-year policy is due to mature this April.

For an annual payment of £105.84, I quote: "the current value of your policy is £1,312.76. This is not the tenth anniversary value as your policy value will continue to fluctuate in line with market conditions and may fall as well as rise".

Among the options offered in their letter is the opportunity to continue making contributions to the policy, or leave the policy to invest with no further contributions.

I have written to Family Assurance asking for details of the gross rate of interest paid on this policy over the past ten years as they make much of the fact that it is a tax-free plan.

Until I receive that crucial piece of information I shall be unable to make an informed decision as to where I shall place the profits from their endeavours on my behalf over the past ten years.

I am ashamed to admit, to my dismay, that I have a second policy with the company due to mature in October 2000.

I am open to any advice as to whether I should ditch the policy now (I expect it would be virtually worthless to cash it in) and put the payments to more fruitful purposes, or continue with the policy and make the best of a poor investment.

Let future investors beware.

Yours faithfully,
B.E. DANTON,
20 Mere Close,
Newport,
Shropshire.

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In praise of mutuality

From Mr R.S. Payne

Sir, I have just read your leading article in *The Times* (Jack of all trades or master of one?, Weekend Money, March 16) and I agree with everything you say about building societies.

Even in today's financial climate there must be a role to play for traditional societies not interested in diversification or conversion to PLC status.

Yours faithfully,
R.S. PAYNE,
20 Moffat Road,
Christchurch,
Dorset.

Waiting, and waiting, for Tessa

"In delay there lies no plenty
(qualified, when sweet
and twenty" (signed: W. Shakespeare)
GED

From Ms P. Reynolds

Sir, A Tessa delay exceeded with ease.

Despite all my efforts, my Halifax Maturity Certificate took 58 days to reach me — from January 16 to March 14!

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA REYNOLDS,
64 Sussex Court,
Eaton Road, Hove,
East Sussex.

Tax advantage with Peps

From Mr P. Regan

Sir, Well done Mr Craighead. (Charges may take much of the interest out of Peps, Weekend Money Letters, March 16).

Charges are critical when assessing personal equity plans.

For most investors capital gains tax exemption is irrelevant and freedom from income taxation offers a small advantage which is easily lost in charges.

Competition is forcing down charges and more transparent disclosure is coming.

But let the buyer beware. The tax advantage is yours. Don't give it away.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP REGAN,
The Vicarage,
The Parish Church of
Combe St Nicholas,
Combe St Nicholas,
Chard,
Somerset.

Lenders seek talks with Union Finance clients

> **Sara McConnell** finds the societies more sympathetic to the victims of the company

Lenders are urging borrowers who tried to free themselves from negative equity by taking advice from Union Finance to make contact and negotiate a settlement. They promise they will be sympathetic to borrowers who talk to them and warn those who fail to come forward that they can expect to face court action to recover debts.

Union Finance, the controversial debt counselling service, went into liquidation at the beginning of the month, leaving thousands of borrowers tens of thousands of pounds in debt.

Many have contacted *The Times*, saying they have no means of repaying the money. But they are afraid to contact their lenders in case they are pursued for huge debts through the courts. Many are also angry that their lenders proved unhelpful when told of negative equity problems in the beginning. This pushed them into the arms of Union Finance," they say.

The affairs of the collapsed firm are in the hands of the official receiver, which is handing them over to A. W. Mudd, an insolvency practitioner in Billericay. But unravelling Union Finance's affairs could take months, while borrowers' debts continue to mount. Lenders say people should not delay contacting them until they hear from A. W. Mudd.

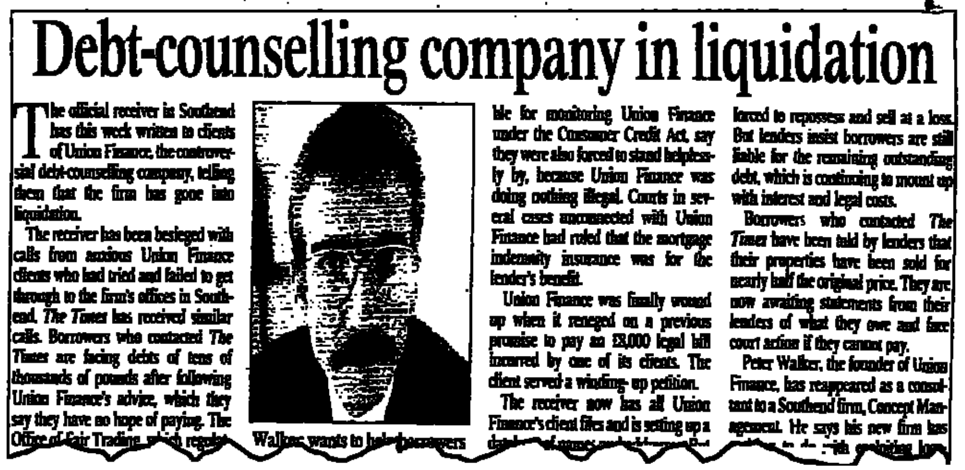
Union Finance told borrowers that they could free themselves from negative equity by handing in their keys and claiming on the mortgage indemnity insurance taken out to cover the loan. The insurance pays out to the lender if it has to repossess and sell the property at a shortfall.

But Union Finance claimed the insurance covered the borrower rather than the lender and that borrowers could not be pursued for any shortfall. Lenders say this is wrong and they can and will pursue defaulters for up to 12 years. Several court cases have confirmed the lenders' view that the mortgage indemnity insurance is for their benefit.

Borrowers who have handed in their keys and forced lenders to sell at a loss are still liable for the difference, which continues to accrue interest until repaid. Legal fees and other costs are also added.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) said: "Of course we want people to talk to us and see if an arrangement can be made to repay some or all of the shortfall. Surely it's better to try and reach a deal rather than waiting for a possibly enormous demand".

Individual lenders agreed. The Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester, all of which have borrowers who contacted *The Times*, urged people to come forward. The Woolwich said: "We take a pragmatic approach. We want to recover the debt but if they haven't got the means we will reach a sensible settlement." But it gave warning: "If we can't find people we will use a tracing agent."



Debt-counselling company in liquidation

The official receiver in Southend has this week written to clients of Union Finance, the controversial debt-counselling company, telling them that the firm has gone into liquidation.

The receiver has been besieged with calls from anxious Union Finance clients who had tried and failed to get through to the firm's offices in Southend. *The Times* has received similar calls. Borrowers who contacted *The Times* are facing debts of tens of thousands of pounds after following Union Finance's advice, which they say they have no hope of paying. The Office of Fair Trading, which [illegible] ble for monitoring Union Finance under the Consumer Credit Act, say they were also forced to stand helplessly by, because Union Finance was doing nothing illegal. Courts in several cases unconnected with Union Finance had ruled that the mortgage indemnity insurance was for the lender's benefit.

Union Finance was finally wound up when it reneged on a previous promise to pay an £8,000 legal bill incurred by one of its clients. The client served a winding-up petition.

The receiver now has all Union Finance's client files and is setting up a [illegible] forced to repossess and sell at a loss. But lenders insist borrowers are still liable for the remaining outstanding debt, which is continuing to mount up with interest and legal costs.

Borrowers who contacted *The Times* have been told by lenders that their properties have been sold for nearly half the original price. They are now awaiting statements from their lenders of what they owe and face court action if they cannot pay.

Peter Walker, the founder of Union Finance, has reappeared as a consultant to a Southend firm, Concept Management. He says his new firm has [illegible]

Walker wants to help borrowers

How Weekend Money broke the news of the liquidation of Union Finance last week

Cut-price PEPs could make you a small fortune.

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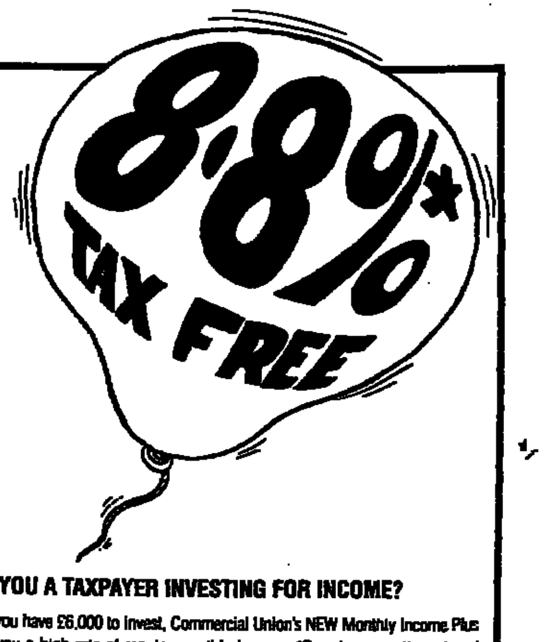

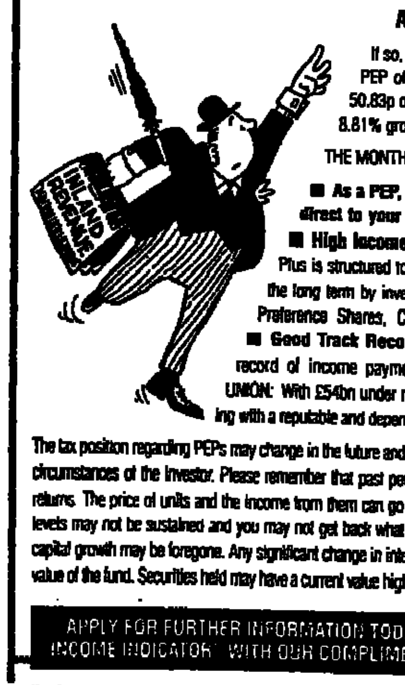

The one that got away.

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■ **As a PEP, all income is completely free of tax** ■ **The income is paid MONTHLY direct to your bank or building society** You have easy access to your money at any time. ■ **High Income with Diversified Risk** Monthly Income Plus is structured to guard against the erosion of your capital in the long term by investing in a wide spread of Corporate Bonds, Preference Shares, Convertibles and High Yielding Equities. ■ **Good Track Record** This Unit Trust Fund has an excellent record of income payment since launch. ABOUT COMMERCIAL UNION: With £54bn under management you can be sure you are investing with a reputable and dependable company.

The tax position regarding PEPs may change in the future and the value of tax relief depends on the financial circumstances of the investor. Please remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future returns. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up, therefore current income levels may not be sustained and you may not get back what you invest. To maintain income, potential for capital growth may be foregone. Any significant change in interest rates would substantially affect the capital value of the fund. Securities held may have a current value higher than their ultimate maturity value.

COMMERCIAL UNION
MONTHLY INCOME PLUS PEP

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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Shares end the week quietly

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
175	109	Adwest	136	+ 2	7.3	38.2
294	153	Airflow Stream	270		3.7	6.3
563	440	Avon Rubber	560		4.0	13.7
72½	49½	BSG	71½		5.8	
340	273	Bostrom	308		2.7	
29	17	Boustead	28		4.5	
357	178	ERF	178	- 2	3.2	10.5
503	370	First Tech	432		2.1	15.4
931	543	GKN	915	- 5	3.3	18.9
3504½	2340½	General Mtr	3500	+ 25	3.0	
1491½	846	Honda Motor	1419½	+ 21	0.6	
448	304	Laird	430		3.4	16.4
445	345	Loades	445		0.3	
217	163	Lucas	208½	- ½	4.2	27.6
103½	53	Mayflower	100	+ ½	2.5	
200	145	Syltone	151		3.5	12.4
197	119	T & N	184	+ 7	4.1	11.8
436	324	Trinity Hldgs	418	- 6	2.2	22.7

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
415½	339	BT	342½	+ 2	6.6	11.9
498	350½	Cable Wireless	490		2.4	20.8
209	156	General Cable	179	+ 5		
147	85½	NYNEX Cable	107	+ 2		
1765	1475	Securicor†	1605		0.3	34.0
1130	838	Securicor 'A'†	988	+ 5	0.5	30.9
1058	728	Security Serv†	985	+ 2	1.0	23.7
195	118	TeleWest	147½	+ 2½		
285½	177½	Vodafone	250½	+ 2½	1.8	30.7

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
611	443	Anglian	600	+ 6	5.6	9.2
433	295	Mid Kent Hldgs	433		3.9	11.7
689	475	Severn Trent†	608	- 10	6.1	7.3
2430	1855	South Staffs	2428		3.7	14.1
657	459	South West†	657	+ 8	5.2	9.3
754	517	Southern†	754	+ 7	4.5	9.2
579	456	Thames	578	+ 3	5.7	7.9
641	467½	Utd Utilities	587	- 6	5.6	7.6
800	592½	Welsh	748	- 1	7.0	8.9
109½	98½	Welsh Cm Pf	100½		9.8	
361	256½	Wessex†	333	+ 2	5.2	7.1
693	472	Yorkshire	688	+ 3	5.2	9.0

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
58	16	Abacus Recruit	38			
122	85	Cafe Inns	115		2.2	9.5
80	53	Country Gdns	77		1.9	15.9
1250	480	Dawson Hldgs	1250		3.0	33.6
212	37	Firecrest	122	+ 5		52.1
16¼	14	Freepages	14½			
127	58	Megalomedia	101	- 1		
585	125	Memory Corp	156	- 5		
110	54	Old English Pub	110		1.1	
445	345	Pet City	392			
580	490	Southern Newsp	579	- 1	3.5	15.2
66	43	Southern Vectis	58			
185	70	Surrey Fr Invst	170		1.5	20.0
56	36	Trocadero	50			

Source: Firstat

© USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

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INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 10% 5%

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 01895 259 783				
[illegible] Amer	207.90	220.00	- 0.30	0.22
Ground Equity	272.60	290.00	- 1.50	1.91
Ground Euro	266.10	281.60	- 1.20	0.45
Ground Eqt Rel	129.10	135.80	2.20	0.72
[illegible] Gilt	75.54	77.89	+ 0.15	6.39
Garland Japan	174.83	185.00	- 3.20	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	634.60	675.20	+ 8.00	2.66
General Inc	539.20	573.70	+ 0.90	2.66
UK Growth Acc	431.90	459.40	+ 6.00	2.82
UK Growth Inc	287.60	306.00	+ 3.90	2.82
Higher Inc Acc	781.30	831.20	+10.30	4.21
Higher Inc Inc	434.70	462.50	- 5.70	4.21
Gilt&Fxd Int Acc	204.40	215.90	- 1.20	5.70
Gilt&Fxd Int Inc	91.47	96.61	+ 0.12	5.70
Nth America	363.90	387.10	- 0.50	
Europe	345.90	368.00	- 2.90	0.52
[illegible]	85.66	91.15	- 1.02	3.02
Ltd Endowts Acc	115.60	122.90	+ 1.10	4.83
Ltd Endowts Inc	77.88	82.86	- 0.76	4.83
Global Opps	100.20	106.70	- 1.60	0.28
Balanced Acc	62.04	66.00	+ 0.69	2.71
Balanced Inc	59.37	63.16	+ 0.67	2.71
Japan Acc	46.84	49.83	+ 0.53	
Pac Basin Acc	423.10	450.20	+ 9.60	0.77
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	126.20	135.20	+ 0.40	7.40
High Inc Equity	179.80	192.30	+ 2.80	4.36
Worldwide Bond	286.70	304.00	- 1.40	3.81
American Growth	359.50	384.20	+ 0.50	0.73
Asian Pacific	245.10	260.10	- 9.20	0.22
Assets & Earnings	297.90	316.90	+ 3.70	2.76
Cons Capital Acc	174.70	186.80	- 1.40	0.55
Cons Inc	44.12	48.54	- 0.06	5.56
General	270.70	289.00	- 3.80	2.89
Global Opps	65.04	69.19	- 1.07	0.43
Japan	124.80	133.50	- 1.60	
Managed Inc	47.65	50.69	- 0.25	4.59
Mastertrust	163.30	174.70	- 2.40	1.36
US Emerging Cos	195.70	208.20	- 7.20	
Ethical	79.14	84.19	+ 1.23	2.44
International	136.00	144.70	+ 2.00	0.77
Dividend & Growth	66.82	71.03	- 1.03	4.22
Global Gth & Inc	72.20	77.12	- 0.28	2.54
Latin America	59.37	62.80	- 0.42	
Capital Reserve	142.60	142.60	+ 0.10	4.91
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2130.00	2216.00	+21.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	58.05	60.89	+ 0.75	0.50
Emerging Mkts	72.46	76.37	- 0.99	0.04
European	144.90	150.70	+ 2.60	
[illegible]	1008.20	1076.90	+ 7.20	1.73
Extra Income	46.27	49.21	+ 0.09	6.94
Far East Emg Eco	133.40	140.10	+ 1.70	0.45
Fixed Interest	23.96	24.81	+ 0.04	9.42
Fund Inv Tst	154.20	162.00	+ 0.10	3.60
Japan	181.50	190.20	- 0.70	
Latin American	52.90	56.17	- 1.70	0.87
Pacific	87.20	91.56	+ 1.40	0.29
Property Share	63.74	66.91	+ 1.11	2.62
UK Emerging Cos	70.16	75.44	- 0.06	1.64
UK Growth	50.90	52.91	- 0.61	2.18
Abtr World Port	81.26	82.69	- 0.66	1.98
Ethical	76.38	79.64	+ 0.96	2.21
Aberdeen Gilt Inc	49.39	49.99	+ 0.07	7.51
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 256 5863				
[illegible] Property	94.79	101.20		5.11
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD 01452 305 958				
[illegible] Income	[illegible]	91.50	+ 0.52	2.17
Income Builder Inc	79.56	82.57	- 0.86	2.82
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC IFA dlg 01793 610 366 Clnsm dlg 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts:				
Growth & Income	280.20	297.70	+ 3.30	2.23
Capital	490.10	517.20	+ 6.80	1.22
Balanced	782.40	806.50	+13.30	2.49
Accumulator	1495.00	1596.00	+28.00	1.95
Income Trusts:				
Dividend Income	59.58	63.59	- 0.74	2.51
High Income	430.90	460.60	+ 6.50	4.11
Equity Income	244.00	260.80	+ 3.30	4.06
High Yield	265.30	293.60	+ 4.60	4.12
Gilt Securities	33.75	35.62	+ 0.05	6.13
International Trusts:				
Amer Spec Sits	[illegible]	220.30	- 3.60	0.05
European Growth	49.22	52.43	- 1.51	0.08
International	189.10	202.00	+ 2.30	0.11
Japan	205.70	219.80	- 3.90	
Pacific	423.50	450.10	+10.10	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	97.97	104.41	+ 1.49	2.47
American Portfolio	118.47	125.70	+ 1.34	0.91
European Portfolio	125.57	133.63	+ 2.70	0.43
High Income	50.15	50.26	+ 0.19	7.96
Japanese Portfolio	69.01	73.39	+ 0.91	
Pacific Portfolio	160.05	172.10	+ 2.96	1.41
UK Inc & Growth	93.73	100.16	+ 1.82	2.95
Utility & Bond	57.40	58.05	+ 0.29	6.58
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	733.01	744.09	+ 3.06	4.35
Fxd Int Sec	151.20	151.80	+ 0.44	9.35
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	731.42	742.48	+ 8.67	4.36
Investment Acc	£37.62	£38.11	+38.87	
Fixed Int Inc	125.46	125.96	+ 0.43	9.13
Fixed Int Acc	213.36	214.22	+ 0.76	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Bockman Intl	87.90	92.74	- 0.87	3.20
Bock Bio Tech	47.77	51.46	- 1.47	
Acorn Ethical Tst	173.90	182.28	+ 1.12	0.60
City Fin Assets	76.71	80.55	+ 1.31	2.02
City Fin America	115.49	121.77	- 1.05	
City Fin Intl	93.43	98.11	+ 1.25	0.82
City Fin Japan	142.00	156.41	+ 1.28	
Friars Hse Cap	315.18	335.30	+ 5.25	2.23
Friars Hse Inc	200.32	213.11	+ 1.81	4.17
Buckley Wrld Gth	148.93	157.46	+ 1.56	
Fairmnt Cap Gth	151.79	159.78	+ 2.63	
Fairmount Intl	161.86	170.38	+ 2.91	
J Sel Inc/Gth Inc	57.83	60.73	+ 0.61	1.58
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin. 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	58.60	62.18	+ 0.33	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0800 373 393				
American Gwth	78.20	83.19	+ 0.83	
Dragon Growth	74.79	79.78	+ 1.92	0.35
Equity High Inc	88.49	94.14	+ 0.87	4.24
-do- Accum	124.56	132.51	+ 1.23	4.24
Extra Income Inc	25.89	27.25	- 0.01	7.78
Extra Income Acc	27.26	28.70	- 0.01	7.78
European Gwth	61.82	65.59	+ 0.49	1.02
Evergreen	29.72	31.78	- 0.18	0.03
General Equity	98.20	104.19	+ 1.56	2.96
Japan Growth	50.73	53.97	+ 0.29	
Pedigree Gwth	60.31	64.16	+ 1.04	2.53
Pnt Sm Cos Inc	36.24	39.55	+ 0.55	1.45
-do- Accum	38.15	40.59	+ 0.57	1.45
Retirement Inc	27.70	29.47	+ 0.82	5.91
Special Sits	45.95	48.88	+ 0.73	1.99
UK & Overseas	57.63	61.15	+ 0.89	0.77
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD 01634 898 000				
Balanced	66.46	69.14	+ 0.75	4.06
Capital	79.25	82.44	+ 1.02	1.84
High Income	49.95	51.96	+ 0.17	7.29
Top 50	53.52	55.67	+ 0.65	2.19
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD 0181 686 0818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds:				
Equity Inc	181.95	193.56	+ 3.81	4.52
Fixed & Convertible	40.85	43.46	+ 0.20	6.69
Monthly Inc Plus	48.28	51.36	+ 0.15	8.72
Preference Share	46.45	49.41	+ 0.41	7.69
Balanced Funds:				
High Yield	133.33	141.84	+ 2.21	5.73
Managed Fund	75.73	80.56	+ 0.77	2.92
UK Growth Funds:				
Smaller Cos	47.81	50.86	- 0.80	1.60
-do- Accum	55.65	59.20	+ 0.93	1.60
UK & General	92.73	98.12	- 1.53	2.61
-do- Accum	118.76	125.51	+ 1.95	2.61
UK Growth	174.66	185.81	+ 3.07	2.18
International Growth Funds:				
Europe Growth	209.56	222.94	- 0.69	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	141.80	150.85	+ 3.59	
Global Bond	85.32	89.21	- 0.29	5.93
Japan Growth	117.06	124.53	+ 0.74	
North Amer Gth	229.49	244.14	+ 1.26	
Oriental Growth	87.45	93.03	+ 2.44	0.06
Worldwide Growth	74.75	79.52	- 0.52	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.48	93.48	+ 0.08	5.45
Homemaker Fund	90.03	95.78	- 0.86	1.58
[illegible] Fund	149.55	159.10	+ 1.99	1.96
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
Consistent Ut	34.76	37.25	+ 0.48	3.33
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD 0800 526 358				
Growth	175.30	186.50	+ 0.90	1.24
Income	69.83	74.29	+ 0.70	5.21
European	71.78	76.36	+ 0.81	0.45
Recovery	172.80	183.80	+ 2.00	1.52

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	77.62	82.68	- 0.31	
-do- Accum	77.62	82.66	- 0.31	
Amer Smlr Cos	648.10	693.20	- 1.30	
-do- Accum	662.10	708.18	- 1.50	
Capital Tst	370.70	394.40	+ 2.10	1.22
-do- Accum	541.50	576.10	+ 6.30	1.22
Conti Smllr Cos	63.81	67.98	+ 0.10	0.78
-do- Accum	67.33	71.74	+ 0.10	0.78
Convertible	137.90	146.70	+ 1.10	5.12
-do- Accum	292.80	311.50	+ 2.50	5.12
Emerging Markets	69.16	73.69	+ 0.54	
-do- Accum	69.40	74.15	+ 0.56	
European	140.80	149.30	+ 1.80	0.47
-do- Accum	148.10	156.90	+ 1.90	0.47
Extra Income	373.40	397.20	+ 1.58	3.65
-do- Accum	581.20	618.30	+ 2.30	3.65
Financial	159.50	169.70	+ 1.10	0.51
-do- Accum	168.80	179.60	+ 1.18	0.51
Gilt Trust	64.38	66.39	+ 0.18	5.97
-do- Accum	94.81	97.76	+ 0.25	5.97
Health Fund Inc	270.40	288.90	- 0.30	
-do- Accum	270.40	288.90	- 0.30	
Income & Growth	221.80	235.00	+ 3.60	3.17
-do- Accum	346.70	368.80	+ 5.40	3.17
Intl Growth	427.00	455.40	+ 4.50	
-do- Accum	474.10	505.70	+ 4.90	
Japan & Gen	177.60	188.80	+ 0.90	
-do- Accum	179.40	190.70	+ 0.90	
Monthly Inc #	186.30	198.20	+ 2.80	4.04
Managed Port Inc	117.60	123.80	- 0.80	1.71
-do- Accum	126.20	132.80	- 0.90	1.71
Quarterly Income #	56.48	59.55	+ 0.95	4.33
-do- Accum #	62.07	66.62	+ 1.07	4.33
Recovery	359.80	384.80	+ 3.30	0.73
-do- Accum	424.80	454.30	+ 3.90	0.73
UK Growth	63.85	67.93	+ 1.35	1.99
-do- Accum	67.67	71.99	+ 1.43	1.99
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	59.12	62.89	+ 0.18	0.37
FP Am Smlr Cos	190.80	204.00	- 1.00	...
FP Asian Growth	296.40	317.00	+10.10	
FP Australian	404.10	433.50	+ 1.80	
FP Equity Dist	434.10	461.80	+ 6.00	2.56
-do- Accum	941.00	1001.00	+12.40	2.56
FP Euro Gth	269.40	285.80	+ 4.70	0.18
-do- Accum	292.00	310.60	+ 5.00	0.19
FP Intl Bond	60.02	63.51	- 0.06	4.06
FP Intl Gth Dist	37.87	40.41	+ 0.72	0.42
-do- Accum	55.29	59.00	+ 1.05	0.42
FP Pac Basin Acc	224.90	240.40	+ 5.10	...

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos	174.45	186.15	+ 1.54	2.97
European Value	86.55	92.23	+ 0.40	1.23
-do- Accum	92.71	98.60	+ 0.43	1.23
Japan Trust	230.92	245.55	+ 4.94	
Japan Special Sits	235.47	250.77	+ 5.26	
Pacific Smlr Cos	254.37	272.17	+ 6.49	
North American	308.72	327.38	+ 0.65	
American Smaller	167.32	178.67	+ 0.12	
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth #	154.90	163.10	+ 1.50	4.97
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS 0181 686 4355				
British	115.11	120.54	+ 1.69	1.82
Capital	199.83	209.25	+ 2.48	1.22
Dollar	475.66	498.07	- 1.82	...
Enterprise Gth	400.58	419.46	+ 6.78	1.24
European	272.62	285.46	+ 2.32	0.40
Far East	347.66	364.05	+ 9.34	
Financial	970.14	1010.15	+16.55	2.02
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	25.64	26.87	+ 0.07	6.95
High Yield	109.21	114.36	+ 1.40	3.94
Income & Growth	158.74	166.22	+ 2.35	3.19
International	297.36	311.37	+ 2.33	...
Japanese General	218.86	229.17	+ 2.27	
Japan Tech	90.83	95.11	- 0.58	
Nat Resources	92.86	97.23	+ 0.78	
Portfolio	83.78	87.73	+ 0.94	1.31
Special Sits	192.44	201.51	+ 4.62	0.40
UK Emerging Cos	115.87	121.33	+ 4.43	0.80
US Smaller Cos	138.28	144.79	+ 0.84	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Advisers 0800 181 880 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	615.90	657.30	+ 9.60	5.02
Capital	691.60	738.10	+ 7.40	2.18
Balanced #	110.80	118.20	+ 0.70	5.88
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	603.30	641.10	- 0.30	0.44
European Gwth	140.00	149.10	+ 2.50	
Japan Gwth	287.10	306.40	+ 4.80	...
Japan Smllr Cos	32.54	34.73	+ 0.15	
Asian	68.16	72.74	+ 2.35	0.09
Sing & Malay Gwth	93.66	99.98	+ 1.24	
Hong Kong Gwth	132.70	141.60	+ 5.90	1.27
Global Bond	22.65	23.92	- 0.08	5.48
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	160.40	160.90	+ 2.20	3.51
Ftse Index	123.40	126.70	+ 2.00	2.22
THE FOOTSIE FUND	61.82	62.13	+ 0.82	3.10

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
Sector Value Inc	99.07	104.50	+ 0.60	4.08
Sector Value Gwth	99.50	104.90	+ 0.60	2.31
Hy 5 Europe	98.92	103.80	- 0.10	1.93
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD 0171 581 3020				
World Health	210.40	223.80	- 2.00	
Income #	198.83	211.51	+ 2.74	4.04
UK Growth	78.52	83.52	+ 1.24	2.05
Intl Growth	86.62	92.14	+ 0.86	0.46
Ecology	101.24	107.69	+ 1.01	1.00
European	176.30	187.54	+ 4.43	
Far Eastern	316.10	336.20	+ 7.20	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
N Amer Growth	131.67	139.93	+ 0.41	0.67
Special Sits Growth	25.26	26.87	+ 0.29	2.07
UK Growth	432.78	460.40	+ 4.51	2.66
-do- Accum	580.07	617.09	+ 6.05	2.66
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD 01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1479.60	1499.90	- 1.70	2.90
Income #	1026.40	1043.50	+ 2.90	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	161.10	166.40		3.66

For Manulife see Canada Life

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WHAT CAR?

THE OMEGA FROM VAUXHALL

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts:				
Bond Income	97.49	100.90	+ 0.30	7.72
Gilt Yield	115.50	121.90	+ 0.10	6.97
Global Income	230.50	245.20	+ 1.90	3.53
High Yield	148.90	158.40	+ 1.70	5.66
-do- Accum	473.80	504.00	+ 5.20	5.66
Smllr Cos Div	59.13	62.97	+ 0.95	3.39
Capital Growth Trusts:				
Amer Smllr Cos	145.50	154.80	+ 1.50	
Asian Growth	359.90	382.90	+ 8.30	0.22
-do- Accum	422.90	449.90	+ 9.70	0.22
North American	105.70	112.50	+ 0.90	0.23
European Special	123.10	131.00	- 0.10	0.10
European	176.20	187.40	+ 0.10	0.43

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 01244 680 066				
M & S Inv Pflio	172.20	177.60	+ 1.60	2.34
-do- Accum	202.10	208.40	+ 1.90	2.34
UK Sel Pflio	151.30	156.00	+ 1.70	2.52
-do- Accum	179.90	185.40	+ 2.00	2.52
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	71.54	76.10	- 0.55	3.94
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	80.83	85.81	+ 0.51	3.88
European	100.90	107.10		0.77
Income #	81.27	86.27	+ 0.14	4.49

Gebresilasie threatened by Kenyan tacticians

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN STELLENBOSCH

CROSS country, traditionally a winter sport, stages its annual world championships here today in the warmth of the South African autumn. Temperatures in the eighties have etched worried looks onto the faces of the Great Britain team, and they have not been alone in expressing their concern at the heat.

"It is a little too warm," Derartu Tulu, the defending senior women's champion, said. Tulu is from Ethiopia, so no wonder Keith Cullen, from Chelmsford, the British senior men's champion, had a furrowed brow. British squad members have been losing up to two litres of fluid on training runs. It was mildly encouraging for them yesterday to learn that, though the temperature was forecast to reach 82F, partly-cloudy skies were predicted.

The success story of South African sports teams on home soil — rugby World Cup winners, African Nations' Cup football champions, unbeaten in Test cricket — is unlikely to open another chapter here. Although Zola Pieterse has been pleased with her training, it would be an upset if she was to add a third world title to the two she won for England in the mid-Eighties.

However, she should not be discounted as a medal prospect, especially in Stellenbosch, the spiritual home of distance running in South Africa. It is familiar territory for the former Miss Budd, whose one-time coach, Pieter Labuschagne, was based here.

Pieterse was fourth in 1993, seventh in 1994 and though she missed the 1995 championships through pregnancy, she has been looking forward to this event. "My fitness is at least on a par with my last two championships," she said. Fitting though it would be for South Africa's best-known athlete to win on the occasion of the first world athletics event to be staged in the country, the race should be between Tulu, Fernanda Ribeiro, from Portugal, Sally Barsosio and Rose Cheruiyot, both from Kenya, and, perhaps, Catherina McKiernan, from Ireland.

McKiernan has been runner-up for the last four years, each time to a different champion. Ribeiro is seeking her first world title. Paula Radcliffe, Britain's only hope for an individual medal in any of the four senior and junior races, has had her preparation interrupted by injury.

Kenya will be seeking an eleventh successive men's team title and should succeed. Even by Kenyan standards, their squad is outstanding. Less of a formality will be a fifth successive individual title. Haile Gebresilasie, from Ethiopia, stands in the way of the Kenyans.

Based on his achievements over the last year, Gebresilasie appears untouchable but Kenya's team tactics have served them well over many years and the fascination here will be to see whether he can outwit the group. The Kenyans always field at least one sacrificial runner and a plan will have been worked out to see that Paul Tergat retains his title.

Last summer Gebresilasie set world records at 5,000 and 10,000 metres, a world best for two miles, won the 10,000 metres world title and, indoors this season, has set world records for 3,000 and 5,000 metres. He was not impressed that the International Amateur Athletic Federation named Jonathan Edwards as world athlete of 1995.

In the latest issue of the IAAF magazine, Gebresilasie made clear his feelings. "What's running two miles in 8min 07.46sec compared with a hop, step and jump? I know why I lost. It is because I am African. But it will not happen again. If I win two Olympic medals in Atlanta [5,000 and 10,000 metres], everyone in Europe and America will have to vote for me." Victory today would help his case.

In the sub-plot, Britain hope to finish as the leading European nation and perhaps take team bronze medals but this will only happen if their top six run to their best form.

JULIAN HERBERT

Joanne Morley and Janet Soulsby, two of the more experienced professionals competing in the Roehampton Gold Cup, will share the handsome trophy for the coming year. Few competitors coped with the afternoon rain as well as they did yesterday: their totals of 147, one over par, were sufficient for them to be joint winners with Kim Hurley, above, the Colne Valley professional, a shot further back (John Hopkins writes).

The Gold Cup is a pleasing hark back to a bygone era. Thirty-six hole competitions held on grey days in early spring are not much in vogue. Nor are events that are not decided on a count-back after a tie between two or more players but shared, as this one is. The last time there was a tie was in 1989.

Morley has played in this event more times than she can remember, though she had never won it. Though it took her time to get going — her morning round of 76 was six strokes behind that of Hurley — she was sharper after lunch, particularly with her putter.

In her 71, two under par, Morley had at least six single putts, ramming in one of 30 feet on the last to set a target of 147. Nicola Moult, Susan Hodge, Susan Moon and Caroline Hall, professionals all, failed to match this total and it was left to Soulsby to come in with a 73 and prevent Morley from taking the trophy home to the North of England.

Riley makes rivals listen to reason

FROM MEL WEBB IN LISBON

FROM the toes of his shoes to the top of his head, Wayne Riley exudes all the breezy confidence of the archetypal Australian. He is a bold and bouncy fellow, who in his time has roistered around the golf courses of Europe and beyond. These days, though, he says he is a different man, a more professional player, and yesterday he produced an example of his changed persona as he took a healthy lead at the halfway point of the Portuguese Open.

The greens this week have been the downfall of the Aroeira course, an otherwise charming, tree-lined layout south of Lisbon, and time was when Riley, who in his youth was something of a loose cannon, would have expressed opinions on them that would have been, to say the least, colourful. No more; part of his growing up has been to take the more measured view, the reasoned approach.

Thus it was that, after the first day, he confined himself to remarking that the greens, which have been made horribly soft and uneven by the vast amount of rain in this part of Portugal in the past three months, looked like they had had the Grand National run over them. From some of his peers, it would have been mildly sensational. From Riley, it was sensationally mild.

"It was not easy on those greens," he said after completing a 67 for a total of 132, ten under par. "They are frightening — I can't tell you how bad they are. The only way to treat them is to putt as if you are on good greens and hope for the best." Riley led by three strokes from José Coceres with Klas Eriksson, the Swede who was the first-round leader, a further shot behind.

Riley's short irons were his friends for the second day, but he nonetheless still had to hole his share of longish putts to preserve his score. His round contained two bogeys and six birdies, three of which were achieved with putts of more than ten feet, and he was very obviously a relieved man to be in the clubhouse with a challenging score against his name.

No, he said, he was not surprised to be on ten-under going into the weekend; if the greens had been in good order he would have expected a score of well into the twenties by the end.

Then somebody told him that David Feherty thought that eight under par would win the tournament. "Yes, well, he's an Irishman," Riley said. "He talks a lot of old cobblers." Riley and Feherty are good friends — and Feherty, who likes nothing more than the odd spot of verbal jousting, would have led the laughter had he been present.

LEADING QUALIFIERS

GB and Ire unless stated

132: W Riley (Aus) 65, 67. 135: J Coceres (Arg) 67, 68. 136: K Eriksson (Swe) 63, 73. 137: J Townsend (US) 69, 68; P Haugsrud (Nor) 67, 70; O Karlsson (Swe) 68, 69. 138: R Claydon 66, 72; J Spence 72, 66; M Gates 68, 70; D Borrego (Sp) 67, 71. 139: G Chalmers (Aus) 69, 70; D Feherty 70, 69; J Van de Velde (Fr) 74, 65; T Gogele (Ger) 69, 70; J Rivero (Sp) 71, 68; J Haeggman (Swe) 67, 72; R Willison 66, 73. 140: M Davis 72, 68, P Linhart (Sp) 68, 72; P Baker 71, 69, F Lindgren (Swe) 68, 72; P Sjoland (Swe) 68, 72, M Roe 70, 70; R Dinsdale 70, 70; P Nyman (Swe) 72, 68. 141: L Westwood 70, 71; D Smyth 68, 73; A Collison 72, 69; M Tunnicliff 75, 66; A Johnstone (Zim) 69, 72; P-U Johansson (Swe) 71, 70; P Lawrie 72, 69; B Lane 70, 71; S Cage 71, 70; R Drummond 71, 70; M McLean 68, 73, M Gronberg (Swe) 68, 73; D Silva (Por) 67, 74; P Harrington 72, 69; M Besanceney (Fr) 68, 73; A Sherborne 72, 69; N Briggs 72, 69

Davies in search of sure touch with switch of putter

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX

LAURA DAVIES, the defending champion, was playing interesting golf in the second round of the Standard Register Ping event at Moon Valley yesterday.

Only three shots behind the leaders, Barb Mucha and Marianne Morris, after a first round 71, two under par, that included a bogey five at the 17th after a two-iron out of bounds off the tee, Davies started at the 10th.

It is a par five that she has reached with two good blows in the past, but the world No 1's drive sailed away to the left, into a grass gully not far from the out-of-bounds posts, and she had to settle for a par.

Davies collected a par at the next, a short hole, drove well right at the 12th — another par — and left again at the 13th, a 450-yard par five she had cleared in two on Thursday, with a three-iron.

Yesterday, her drive soared left, hit a big eucalyptus tree, bounced against a garden wall and came to rest, in bounds, perfectly playable. Davies played up just short of the green, pitched beautifully to three feet — and missed the putt.

On Thursday, she had used the new Ping "Danser", a putter with a mallet-shaped head, but yesterday she was using a more conventional Ping putter, still seeking that magic touch on the greens.

At the 14th, Davies eventually got her driver — a Maruman with a black titanium head called the "Laura Special" — working and hit the ball miles down the middle. It yielded another par but she dropped a shot at the 15th, another par four, to slip to one under par.

Ahead of Davies, Trish Johnson, a Solheim Cup teammate, was three under par after birdies at the 11th, 13th and 16th had offset a bogey — three putts — at the 12th. Johnson, out last on Thursday, shot 72.

LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES (US unless stated): 68: B Mucha, M Morris. 69: K Parker-Gregory, D Coe-Jones (Can), S Steinhauer. 70: C Koch (Swe), M Redman, S Redman, V Skinner, B Burton, K Webb (Aus), L Lindley. Other European scores: 71: L Neumann (Swe), L Davies (GB), K Marshall (GB). 72: A Palli (Fr), S Croce (It). 73: C Nilsmark-Wickberg (Swe), F Descampe (Bel). 74: C Pierce (GB), A Sorenstam (Swe), A Nicholas (GB). 75: S Strudwick (GB), E Dahllof (Swe). 76: M Figueras-Dotti (Sp), H Alfredsson (Swe). 77: T Abitbol (Sp).

IN BRIEF

S Africa pick Adams for A tour to England

PAUL ADAMS, the unorthodox, teenage left-arm spinner, has been selected for the South Africa A cricket squad to tour England in July and August. Jacques Kallis and Steve Palframan, Adams's World Cup team-mates, will also be in the party. Other Test players included are John Commins, the captain, and Brett Schultz, the injury-troubled left-arm fast bowler.

Ridley Jacobs, the Leeward Islands wicketkeeper, and Laurie Williams, the Jamaica all-rounder, are newcomers and Stuart Williams, Phil Simmons and Philo Wallace have been recalled by the West Indies for the first three one-day internationals against New Zealand starting in Kingston, Jamaica on Tuesday.

SOUTH AFRICA A SQUAD: G F J Liebenberg, S Koenig, J B Commins (capt), H H Gibbs, J H Kallis, H D Ackerman, N Pothas, S J Palframan, L Klusener, D Crookes, N Boje, P R Adams, B N Schultz, R Telemachus, G Smith.

WEST INDIES SQUAD: C A Walsh (capt), J C Adams, C E L Ambrose, I R Bishop, S Chanderpaul, R A Harper, R I C Holder, R Jacobs, B C Lara, P V Simmons, P Wallace, L Williams, S Williams.

No contest

Boxing: Richie Woodall's European middleweight title defence against Salvador Yanez, of Germany, in Hamburg was called off last evening. The German promoters, who had paid Mickey Duff, Woodall's manager, £120,000 were unable to find the rest of the purse of £180,000. Duff was prepared to wait until the weigh-in time of 6.30pm but even by then the organisers were short of the balance and Duff decided not to proceed with the match.

Cambridge lead

Golf: Thick fog meant the scheduled 36-hole foursomes were reduced to 18 at the start of the 107th University Golf Match at the Royal West Norfolk course yesterday. Julius Stobbs, the Cambridge captain, halved the opening match against Magnus Lindelow, of Oxford, and although Oxford claimed the second match, Cambridge won the last three, to end the day leading 3½-1½.

Walker beaten

Squash: Chris Walker, the England captain, crashed out of the Equitable Life Super Series finals in Hatfield 10-8, 9-6, 9-6 at the hands of Brett Martin, the world No 3 from Australia.

Bell strikes

Skiing: Graham Bell, already the downhill champion, won the parallel slalom title in the British Land National Ski Championships in Tignes yesterday.

That shrinking feeling undermines Australia

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

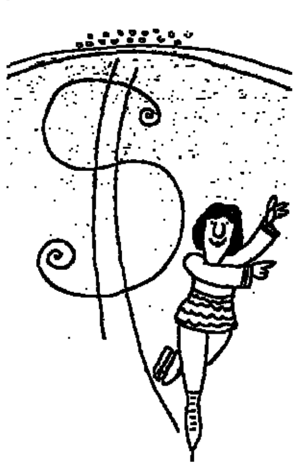
This column is in deep mourning. Those poor, poor Aussies! How sad it was that after, in their manly way, they had refused to play a cricket match — a curse on those people who said "wimped out" — in Sri Lanka, they were beaten in the World Cup final by none other than Sri Lanka. These tall, bronzed and butch Australians, defeated by little chaps from a little Asian island. How terrible! My heart goes out to them. And, as it does so, I learn a terrible fact: Australians are shrinking.

It is true. Australians are getting smaller and smaller. No sign yet of them vanishing altogether, but the smaller Aussie is a fact of modern life. Perhaps Sri Lankans are getting bigger. The Australian National Heart Foundation reveals that the average Australian male stands at 176.1cm (about 5ft 9⅓in) — compared to 177cm (about 5ft 9⅔in) seven years ago.

It reverses a long-established trend for taller Australians. The reason for this is immigration: many immigrants from Asia are on the short side of tall. This is so much the case that the Australian arm of Levi's jeans are to test the marketing potential of jeans for shorties. A delicate matter, especially in Australia. "We would never use the word short," Jean Laird, the Levi's marketing manager, said. Perish the thought.

Frozen out

Sad tidings of one of the all-time great heroines of this column: Tonya Harding, the black witch of ice skating. After the Harding business — in which her Sindy-doll rival, Nancy Kerrigan, was whacked in the leg with an iron bar — ice skating has soared to unprecedented popularity. Oksana Bayul, for example, now earns $3 million (about £1.9 million) a year. The only big-name skater not making a mint from skating is Harding. She was banned from skating as an amateur, but can still perform as a pro. But she never does: no other skater will perform in an event in which Harding is scheduled to take part. Harding's latest bid for glory, or perhaps I mean hard cash, is to seek reinstatement as an amateur.



She has a hearing at the United States Figure Skating Association next week. Alas for all Harding fans, we are talking snowballs and hell.

Bookish Don

Sport is trivial in itself, which often misleads people into thinking that it only represents trivial matters. Such a delusion is slowly being eroded, and sport is increasingly seen as an important matter in cultural history. The younger the country, the greater the importance. I learn of a new book on Sir Donald Bradman, scheduled for release this summer. Another? There are already 33 books with Bradman in the title, enough, you would think, for a fellow who was jolly good at hitting a ball with a stick. This one is written by the Welshman and politician, Lord Williams of Elvel, Labour's defence spokesman in the Lords, who said: "This chap was the icon of Australia in the Depression years, when Australians were fed up with Britain, partly over Gallipoli — and the reaction from the Empire was to produce Bodyline." Hence the whinge that can be heard to this day.

Fallen idol

Chuck Wepner, one of those shadowy figures who play a supporting role in boxing, was always known affectionately as "the Bayonne bleeder". You may remember that he once went 15 rounds with Muhammad Ali. He has allegedly been losing again, this time to a night-club bouncer, Eric Middleton.

"He sucker-shot me," Wepner protested. "He hit me in the eye when I wasn't looking. He hits like a [fill in your own favourite adjective] girl." Wepner, sent to his knees by the blow, pressed charges for assault. "I asked that the cops put us both in the same cell so we could settle it like men. But they laughed."

Total love

The magazine, *Total Football*, lists the top ten acts of devotion performed by serious football fans. These include watching an entire match on Teletext, successfully explaining the offside law, and asking your partner to wear a club shirt during sex (the magazine alleges that this particular habit is "not an unusual request in Newcastle").

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New Jersey 97 Denver 89, Chicago 107 New York 86, Houston 85 Cleveland 98, Phoenix 104 Golden State 96, Seattle 104 Los Angeles Lakers 93

BOWLS

ADELAIDE: Men's world championships: Triples: Semi-final: Scotland bt South Africa 23-11. Pairs: Sixth round: Group A: Argentina bt Malawi 31-16; Namibia bt Israel 20-18, South Africa bt Norfolk Island 21-19; Scotland bt Western Samoa 37-9. Group B: USA bt Cook Islands 32-18; Malaysia drew with Kenya 20-20; Ireland bt New Zealand 20-19. Group C: Wales bt Canada 42-8, Zimbabwe bt Jersey 22-19. Papua New Guinea bt Thailand 23-13. Group D: Australia bt England 24-11; Botswana bt Brazil 23-15, Fiji bt Zambia 24-15; Guernsey bt Singapore 18-14

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results:

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-finals, second leg: Feyenoord 1 Borussia Mönchengladbach 0 (Feyenoord win 3-2 on aggregate); Paris Saint-Germain 3 Parma 1 (Paris Saint-Germain win 3-2 on aggregate); Rapid Vienna 3 Dynamo Moscow 0 (Rapid Vienna win 4-0 on aggregate); Real Zaragoza 1 Deportivo La Coruña 1 (Deportivo La Coruña win 2-1 on aggregate).

ICIS LEAGUE: Guardian Insurance Cup: Fourth-round replay: Kingstonian 2 Heybridge Swifts 0

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Stoke 1 Leeds 1, West Bromwich 2 Nottingham Forest 2. Second division: Aston Villa 0 Manchester City 2.

GOLF

NEW ORLEANS: Freeport-McDermott Classic: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 66: J Furyk. 67: F Nobilo (NZ); P Stankowski, Jo Wilson; L Clements. 68: T Watson; D Love; S McCarron. 69: T Lehman; B Glider, D Martin, J Huston. 70: M Kuramoto (Jap); T Tolles; D Stockton Jr; M Reid; S Verplank; J Gallagher; J Adams, L Rinker; H Twitty; T Herron. Selected: 72: E Els (SA); 74: W Grady (Aus), C Parry (Aus); G Waite (NZ), S Appleby (Aus).

ROYAL WEST NORFOLK: University match: First day: Cambridge lead Oxford 3½-1½: Foursomes (Oxford names first): M B Lindelow and J C S Hardy halved with J E B Stobbs and N P Appleton; M S P Benka and J R Saunders bt P Guest and C Murray; N Paben and R S Elworthy lost to S A McLeod and D J Moriarty. W J Dugdale and I A S McLean lost to O Malik and C J H Russell; M R Jones and R J Weaver lost to O Brown and K M Metcalfe.

HOCKEY

ALDERSHOT: Services Championship: Seniors: Army 0 RAF 2. Final positions: 1, Army 3pts; 2, RAF 3; 3, Royal Navy 3. Under-23: RAF 3 Army 2. Final positions: 1, Army 3pts; 2, RAF 3; 3, Royal Navy 3. Veterans: RAF 2 Army 0. Final positions: 1, RAF 6pts; 2, Royal Navy 3; 3, Army 0. Women: Royal Navy 0 Army 1. Final positions: 1, Army 6pts; 2, Royal Navy 1; 3, RAF 1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 3 Ottawa 1, Florida 3 New York Islanders 2, Pittsburgh 5 Edmonton 4; Tampa Bay 3 Washington 3.

RUGBY UNION

CHRISTCHURCH: Super 12 series: Canterbury (NZ) 16 Western Province (SA) 16

RUGBY LEAGUE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERSHIP: Illawarra 8 Western Suburbs 17

SNOOOKER

TELFORD INTERNATIONAL CENTRE: Embassy world championship: Final qualifying round (England unless stated): R Lawler bt D Taylor (N Ire) 10-5; D Henry (Scot) bt T Knowles 10-8; M Price bt I McCulloch 10-6; J Michie bt A Hicks 10-8, D O'Kane (NZ) bt P Davies (Wales) 10-7; M Clark bt M King 10-5, J Ferguson bt G Greene 10-8, N Terry bt D Reynolds 10-7.

SQUASH

HATFIELD: Super Series finals: First qualifying round: C Walker (Eng) bt R Eyles (Aus) 4-9, 10-8, 2-9, 9-5, 10-8; B Martin (Aus) bt M Cairns (Eng) 9-4, 10-8, 10-8. D Harris (Eng) bt P Nicol (Scot) 10-8, 7-9, 9-6, 10-8, J Khan (Pak) bt M Challoner (Eng) 9-4, 10-8, 9-4. Second qualifying round: R Eyles (Aus) bt M Cairns (Eng) 9-4, 7-9, 9-5, 9-6; B Martin (Aus) bt C Walker (Eng) 10-8, 9-6, 9-6

SWIMMING

SHEFFIELD: Optrex British Olympic trials: Finals: Men: Freestyle: 50m: 1, M Foster (City of Cardiff) 22.74sec; 2, A Ripley (City of Sheffield) 23.18; 3, M Fibbens (Hatfield) 23.29. 200m: 1, P Palmer (City of Lincoln) 1min 49.64sec; 2, A Clayton (City of Leeds) 1:49.77; 3, J Salter (City of Birmingham) 1:50.52. Breaststroke: 100m: 1, R Maden (Rochdale Aquabears) 1:02.76; 2, J Parrack (City of Leeds) 1:03.73, 3, G Brettell (City of Birmingham) 1:03.84. Butterfly: 100m: 1, J Hickman (Stockport Metro) 53.82sec; 2, A Clayton (City of Leeds) 55.02, 3, S Parry (City of Liverpool) 55.27. Women: Freestyle: 50m: 1, S Rolph (City of Newcastle) 26.15; 2, A Sheppard (Milngavie and Bearsden) 26.57; 3, C Wilmott (Barnet Copthall) 26.86. 100m: 1, K Pickering (Ipswich) 55.85sec; 2, S Rolph (City of Newcastle) 56.01; 3, A Sheppard (Milngavie and Bearsden) 57.73. Breaststroke: 200m: 1, M Hardiman (City of Birmingham) 2min 31.18sec; 2, J King (Borough of Waltham Forest) 2:32.44, 3, R Plaxton (City of Leeds) 2:38.23. Butterfly: 200m: 1, H Jepson (City of Leeds) 2:15.93, 2, H Slatter (Warrington Warriors), 3, M Pedder (Portsmouth Northsea) 2:18.66. Backstroke: 200m: 1, J Deakins (City of Coventry) 2:15.72, 2, K Osher (Ealing) 2:16.41; 3, E Tattam (Portsmouth Northsea) 2:18.20. Medley: 400m: 1, S Hardcastle (Bracknell) 4:51.07; 2, L Findlay (Wycombe District) 4:53.68; 3, H Slatter (Warrington Warriors) 4:55.45

TENNIS

KEY BISCYANE, Florida: Lipton championships: Men: First round (selected results): P Korda (Cz) bt D Dier (Ger) 6-4, 6-3. S Draper (Aus) bt C Wilkinson (GB) 6-3, 6-4. J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt G Etlis (Arg) 6-1, 6-1; W Kowalski (Pol) bt A Krickstein (US) 6-3, 3-6, 7-5; R Reneberg (US) bt A Radulescu (Ger) 7-6, 6-4. M Joyce (US) bt M Hadad (Col) 4-6, 7-6, 6-4. Women: First round: K Habsudova (Slovakia) bt S Meier (Ger) 6-4, 4-6, 6-1. D Graham (US) bt V Martinek (Ger) 5-7, 6-2, 6-3, M Endo (Japan) bt B Reinstadler (Austria) 6-4, 6-4. D van Roost (Bel) bt P Suarez (Arg) 6-0, 6-2. S Cacic (US) bt T Jecmenica (Yug) 6-4, 6-2. S Hack (Ger) bt R Grande (It) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; G Fernandez (US) bt V Csurgo (Hun) 6-2, 6-3, C Morariu (US) bt P Shriver (US) 6-0, 1-0 ret. M McGrath (US) bt T Whitlinger-Jones (US) 6-1, 7-5, L Wild (US) bt F Lubiani (It) 6-2, 6-1, K Studenikova (Slovakia) bt M Drake (Can) 6-4, 6-2; R McQuillan (Aus) bt T Snyder (US) 7-6, 6-3; N Miyagi (Japan) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, G Fernandez (US) bt V Csurgo (Hun) 6-2, 6-3; A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) bt L McNeil (US) 6-3, 6-3; J Watanabe (US) bt N Kijimuta (Japan) 6-3, 6-3. S Stafford (US) bt K Rinaldi-Stunkel (US) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; A Serra-Zanetti (It) bt P Hy-Boulais (Can) 7-6, 6-3, A Gavaldon (Mex) bt L Richterova (Cz) 6-3, 6-4; K Kschwendt (Ger) bt J Kandarr (Ger) 6-4, 4-6, 7-6; C Singer (Ger) bt N Arendt (US) 6-3, 6-2; E De Lone (US) bt V Ruano-Pascual (Sp) 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, A Fusai (Fr) bt M J Gaidano (Arg) 6-3, 6-1; B Schett (Austria) bt K Nowak (Pol) 7-5, 6-0; L Lee (US) bt Jing Qian Yi (China) 6-3, 6-0; J Capriati (US) bt L Ghirardi-Rubbi (Fr) 7-5, 6-1; L Neiland (Lat) bt K Maleeva (Bul) 6-4, 6-4; K Adams (US) bt N Feber (Bel) 6-4, 6-2

DAVIS CUP: Asia/Oceania Zone: Group three: Group A: Singapore 2 Pacific Oceania 1; Kazakhstan 2 Syria 1; Malaysia 2 Oman 1. Group B: Lebanon 3 Brunei 0; Qatar 3 UAE 0, Bangladesh 3 Jordan 0

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	35	95	good	heavy	slush	cloud	1	22/3
Fresh, wet snow covering worn patches; good early on								
Schladming	40	80	good	varied	slush	cloud	9	22/3
Good skiing on new snow, slush on lowest runs								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	95	290	soft	heavy	slush	fair	12	22/3
Fresh snow but warm weather leading to slushy skiing								
Chamonix	35	250	good	powder	worn	snow	2	22/3
50cm of new snow above 2,000m, good skiing								
Tignes	125	210	good	heavy	fair	snow	4	22/3
Fresh snow but quite wet; challenging conditions								
Val d'Isère	115	150	good	heavy	heavy	snow	3	22/3
Fresh snow but quite wet and heavy; good skiing								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	15	300	good	heavy	fair	snow	2	22/3
New snow and improving conditions; still snowing								
Klosters	5	90	good	heavy	worn	cloud	7	22/3
Useful fall of wet snow has improved conditions								
Zermatt	30	280	good	heavy	worn	snow	1	22/3
15cm of new snow; pistes refreshed, better skiing								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes, U - upper, art - artificial

THE TIMES
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Ramsden-trained filly has consistent Doncaster record

Fame Again can star in Lincoln

By Richard Evans, Racing Journalist of the Year

FAME AGAIN, backed from 25-1 to 12-1 with the sponsors yesterday, can land the gamble in the William Hill Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster this afternoon.

Lynda Ramsden took the first big handicap of the season with High Premium three years ago and is particularly adept at scoring with older horses first time out — as she confirmed with a 22 per cent strike-rate last season.

In a race where the winner's starting price during the past decade has averaged more than 22-1, surprises have been commonplace, but the form book and the trends of the Lincoln highlight the prospects of the daughter of Then Again.

Twice a winner on softish ground as a two-year-old, including over seven furlongs at Doncaster, she won a Sandown handicap last season but showed even better form in her final three starts, in competitive affairs at Doncaster, Ayr and Ascot. On her last start she was fourth, beaten just over two lengths by Night Dance, in the Tote Festival Handicap and reopposes on 9lb better terms.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: FAME AGAIN
(3.40 Doncaster)
Next best: Supreme Lady
(2.00 Newbury)

Significantly, Fame Again has run seven of her 19 races at Doncaster and showed her liking for the course by finishing in the frame on five occasions. During the past ten years the Lincoln has been won by horses in a narrow rating band — 75 to 84 — with all carrying 8st 8lb or less and she qualifies on both counts.

With the rain having produced perfect underfoot conditions, she also appears well drawn in stall nine as the pace in the race looks set to come from horses drawn towards the far side of the straight mile. The first four home in yesterday's Lincoln "dress rehearsal", the William Hill Spring Mile, were drawn 2, 1, 7 and 3.

Jack Ramsden, husband of the trainer, said yesterday: "Fame Again will like this ground, but there is a doubt about her getting the mile. Although she won over the distance as a two-year-old, last year there were a few times when she appeared not to get the trip."

However, the informative statistical review produced for the first time by *Timeform* discloses that the average winning distance of Then Again's offspring at four is 8.2 furlongs, compared to 7.5 at three, so the stamina doubts may prove to be unfounded.

If the ground had stayed good or better the strongly-fancied Delta Soleil would have been one for the shortlist, along with the well-drawn Shinerolla, but the rain may have hindered their chances.

Instead, the main danger to **Fame Again** appears to be the Reg Akehurst-trained Sharp Prospect, who is proven on soft ground and won over course and distance first time out last year. Akehurst has his string in fine form and landed the Cystic Fibrosis Research Cup in the cheekiest fashion with Shadirwan yesterday.

Roving Minstrel, winner of the Lincoln 12 months ago, looks fairly treated and should not be far away from stall seven on his favourite track, while Beauchamp Jazz, runner-up in the Britannia Handicap, must be respected from stall two.

Away from the television cameras, **Riverbourne** goes to post in the South Yorkshire Maiden Stakes (5.15) carrying stable confidence. Mick Channon's unraced son of Riverman should not be inconvenienced by the ground and is well drawn in what appears to be a moderate race.

At Bangor, the Gordon Richards-trained **Parsons Boy** makes a quick reappearance after winning at Newcastle five days ago and can land his fourth successive victory in the Miles MacAdam Novices' Chase (3.45).

☐ The participation of Dextra Dove, a 16-1 chance, in the Martell Grand National next Saturday is in doubt after Simon Earle's chaser ripped off three shoes yesterday during a workout.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Cool Edge takes command in the William Hill Spring Mile at Doncaster yesterday

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

2.00 Kingsinger
2.30 First Maite
3.00 Projection
3.40 Delta Soleil
4.15 Penny A Day
4.45 **COOL JAZZ** (nap)
5.15 Green Barries

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.15 **RIGHT WIN.**

Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 **AUTUMN AFFAIR** (nap). 4.45 Iktamal.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT, SOFT IN PLACES — SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — DRAW: 1M STR, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.00 GREY FRIARS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,527: 5f) (12 runners)

No	Draw	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
101	(1)	NERVOUS REX (M Payton) W Muir 8-9	J Reid	–
102	(9)	MAGIC BLUE (G Johnson) R Hollinshead 8-8	K Darley	–
103	(12)	KINGSINGER (Maygain Ltd) M Channon 8-6	T Quinn	–
104	(7)	FAN OF VENT-AXIA (Camelot Racing) C Allen 8-5	C Hodgson	–
105	(3)	HIGHLAND PASS (R Curtis) M McCormack 8-5	R Cochrane	–
106	(10)	CLASSIC PARTYGOER (A Black) M W Easterby 8-4	M Birch	–
107	(11)	MAGICAL TIMES (Ms L Bell) R Boss 8-4	A Clark	–
108	(6)	MAJARO (J Tolboll) J Berry 8-4	L Tolboll	–
109	(2)	SPONDULICKS (Barouche Stud Ltd) R Hannon 8-4	Dane O'Neill (5)	–
110	(5)	RISKY FLIGHT (Mrs S Oakes) A Smith 8-3	D Harrison	–
111	(4)	SEAMUS (Duckhaven Stud) A Newcombe 8-3	J Quinn	–
112	(8)	LUCYBOD (Mrs D Wright) N Tinkler 8-2	G Carter	–

BETTING: 3-1 Majaro, 7-2 Magical Times, 4-1 Kingsinger, 6-1 Spondulicks, 7-1 Nervous Rex, 10-1 others

1995: KUSTOM KIT 8-8 F Norton (20-1) B McMahon 13 ran

2.30 MARK THOMAS CHUM SPECIAL HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £4,854: 7f) (14 runners)

No	Draw	Form	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
201	(13)	32322-	NILGIRI HILLS 171 (A Struthers) J Dunlop 9-7	W Carson	87
202	(5)	1-05112	LE SPORT 8 (D,BF,G) (Simple Technology UK Ltd) A Bailey 9-6	D Wright (3)	[illegible]
203	(2)	21040-0	SUALTACH 17 (F) (N Sweeney) R Hollinshead 9-1	L Dettori	88
204	(11)	0-25116	FIRST MAITE 24 (B,G) (S Bowring) S Bowring 8-12	C Teague (5)	95
205	(6)	366522-	CRAIGNAIRN 162 (M Grubb) J Berry 8-11	J Carroll	91
206	(12)	56013-	BEAS RIVER 151 (G) (A de V Patrick) W Muir 8-10	J Reid	90
207	(1)	422120-	REBEL COUNTY 152 (F) (Edermine Bloodstock) D Cosgrove 8-10	M Nutter (7)	86
208	(14)	600463-	KNAVE 128 (R Hannon) R Hannon 8-7	Dane O'Neill (5)	89
209	(4)	0530-	ISLAY BROWN 182 (A Smith) C W Elsey 8-6	K Darley	80
210	(8)	0600-	SEATTLE ALLEY 152 (P Leonard) Mrs J Ramsden 8-5	K Fallon	84
211	(3)	6043-	CARMOSA 112 (A Bloodstock) D Nicholls 8-1	J Quinn	88
212	(9)	001-225	THEATRE MAGIC 52 (D,G) (Green Diamond Racing) S Bowring 8-0	N Carlisle	91
213	(7)	064000-	SILVERDALE KNIGHT 173 (D,F) (Auldyn Stud Ltd) K Hogg 7-10	M Baird (5)	97
214	(10)	146000-	ORIOLE 128 (F) (E Incisa) N Tinkler 7-10	Kim Tinkler	91

Long handicap: Oriole 7-7.

BETTING: 4-1 Nilgiri Hills, 5-1 Beas River, 6-1 Rebel County, 7-1 Craignairn, 8-1 Le Sport, 10-1 First Maite, Knave, Silverdale Knight, 12-1 others

1995: MISTER FIRE EYES 8-0 B Doyle (100-30 fav) C Brittain 15 ran

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RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Folkestone: (first race, 1.50), Fontwell Park (2.10), Hexham (2.00)
TUESDAY: Huntingdon (2.20), Newcastle (2.30), Sandown Park (2.10)
WEDNESDAY: Catterick Bridge (2.20), Chepstow (2.00), Lingfield Park (AW, 2.10)
THURSDAY: Aintree (BBC, 2.00), Leicester (2.55), Taunton (2.15)
FRIDAY: Aintree (BBC, 2.00), Lingfield Park (AW, 2.20), Ludlow (2.15), Sedgefield (2.10)
SATURDAY: Aintree (BBC, 1.35), Beverley (2.00), Hereford (1.20), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00).
Flat meetings in bold

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7/1 Sharp Prospect — 28/1 Barbaroja
8/1 Moving Arrow — 28/1 Pengamon
10/1 Delta Soleil — 33/1 Stone Ridge
10/1 Night Dance — 40/1 Castel Rosselo
10/1 Shinerolla — 40/1 Kayvee
11/1 Commanche Comp. — 50/1 Autumn Affair
12/1 Beyond Doubt — 50/1 Nigels Lad
12/1 Fame Again — 50/1 Welton Arsenal
14/1 Hoh Express — 66/1 Al Reet
14/1 Roving Minstrel — 66/1 Cedez Le Passage
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GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield. C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.00 DONCASTER SPRING CONDITIONS STAKES
C4
(3-Y-O: £6,380: 1m str) (5 runners)

No	Draw	Form	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
301	(4)	214223-	MUSHAHID 159 (C,F,G) (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-3	W Carson	[illegible]
302	(5)	1-	MIRONOV 139 (G) (Allevamento La Nuova Sbarra SRL) M Channon 8-13	R Hughes	–
303	(1)	1-	PROJECTION 162 (F) (K Abdulla) B Hills 8-13	Pat Eddery	96
304	(2)	35426-	ACHARNE 182 (Parrot Racing) C Brittain 8-11	B Doyle	94
305	(3)	13-	WIGHT 161 (S) (G Mazza) R Hannon 8-8	T Quinn	80

BETTING: 13-8 Projection, 9-4 Mushahid, 4-1 Acharne, 5-1 Mironov, 12-1 Wight

1995: JUYUSH 8-13 W Carson (11-10 fav) B Hills 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

MUSHAHID 4½l 3rd of 8 to West-A-Minute in listed race at Pontefract (1m, firm). MIRONOV beat Frequent ½l in 6-runner maiden at San Siro (7f 110yd, good). PROJECTION beat Mutadarra short-head in 21-runner maiden at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). ACHARNE 11½l 6th of 8 to Mons in group II Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot (1m, good). WIGHT 7l 3rd of 5 to Babinda in conditions race at Newmarket (7f, good to firm).
Selection: PROJECTION

3.40 WILLIAM HILL LINCOLN HANDICAP
C4
(£47,373: 1m str) (24 runners)

No	Draw	Form	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
401	(12)	341303-	HOH EXPRESS 168 (D,G) (D Allport) I Balding 4-9-10	L Dettori	90
402	(2)	152402-	BEAUCHAMP JAZZ 168 (D,F,S) (E Penser) J Dunlop 4-9-10	J Reid	89
403	(19)	410000-	KAYVEE 147 (D,F,G) (J Richmond-Watson) G Harwood 7-9-10	A Clark	95
404	(23)	306026-	AUTUMN AFFAIR 163 (S) (R Richards) C Brittain 4-9-7	B Doyle	94
405	(8)	404200-	WELTON ARSENAL 280 (F) (Business Forms Express) M Channon 4-9-6	R Hughes	91
406	(18)	021100-	NIGHT DANCE 112 (D,F,G,S) (G Wright) G Lewis 4-9-6	A Whelan (3)	[illegible]
407	(4)	016001-	MOVING ARROW 171 (D,F,G) (G Westgarth) Miss S Hall 5-9-4	J Weaver	93
408	(10)	46/1043-	DELTA SOLEIL 147 (D,F) (American Connection I) P Harris 4-9-2	G Hind	95
409	(16)	034212-	AL REET 132 (G,S) (M Hammond) M Hammond 5-9-1	R Cochrane	91
410	(7)	024020-	ROVING MINSTREL 175 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J McMahon) B McMahon 5-9-0	G Carter	90
411	(13)	040306-	CEDEZ LE PASSAGE 112 (D,G) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 5-9-0	J F Egan	90
412	(20)	640004-	BILLY BUSHWACKER 147 (B,CD,F,G,S) (T Child) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-13	K Darley	94
413	(17)	2621-00	NIGEL'S LAD 60 (D,F,G) (N Dunnington) P Haslam 4-8-12	J Fortune	96
414	(6)	055010-	STONE RIDGE 147 (D,F) (Mrs C Harrington) R Hannon 4-8-12	Dane O'Neill (5)	92
415	(21)	034600-	PEARL VENTURE 169 (F) (F Chao) S Woods 4-8-12	W Woods	90
416	(24)	040-301	PENGAMON 21 (D,F,G) (Miss A Smallman) H Collingridge 4-8-12 (5ex)	J Quinn	89
417	(15)	12/5/65-	BARBAROJA 24J (D,G,S) (Marquesa de Moratalla) J Fitzgerald 5-8-11	J Carroll	90
418	(5)	100340-	SHOW FAITH 42J (D,G,S) (I Wight) R Hannon 6-8-11	S Sanders	95
419	(11)	2/11-	BEYOND DOUBT 269 (F,G) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-9	D Harrison	88
420	(3)	501310-	COMANCHE COMPANION 147 (D,G,S) (Allstars Club) T Naughton 6-8-8	Pat Eddery	95
421	(22)	33000-0	CASTEL ROSSELO 24 (D,F,G,S) (T Dawson) R Harris 6-8-8	A Mackay	96
422	(1)	40013-3	SHINEROLLA 24 (D,F,G) (Mrs A Green) C Parker 4-8-8	D R McCabe (3)	95
423	(14)	2100/10-	SHARP PROSPECT 336 (CD,F,S) (Future Prospectors) R Akehurst 6-8-7	T Quinn	90
424	(9)	521234-	FAME AGAIN 182 (C,D,G,S) (M Charlton) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-7	K Fallon	91

BETTING: 7-1 Sharp Prospect, 8-1 Beauchamp Jazz, 10-1 Comanche Companion, Delta Soleil, Fame Again, 12-1 Beyond Doubt, Moving Arrow, Night Dance, Shinerolla, 14-1 Billy Bushwacker, Roving Minstrel, 16-1 others.

1995: ROVING MINSTREL 4-8-3 K Darley (33-1) B McMahon 23 ran

FORM FOCUS

BEAUCHAMP JAZZ 7l 2nd of 8 to King Of Tunes in apprentices race at Ascot (1m, soft). AUTUMN AFFAIR 7¾l 6th of 8 to Harayir in group II Challenge Stakes at Newmarket (7f, good to firm). NIGHT DANCE best effort last term beat Decorated Hero 1¼l in 27-runner handicap at Ascot (7f, good) with FAME AGAIN (9lb better off) around 2l 4th and KAYVEE (13lb better off) 6½l 15th. MOVING ARROW beat Akil 1l in handicap at York (1m, good). DELTA SOLEIL 1¾l 3rd of 30 to Tarawa in handicap at Newmarket (1m, good to firm) with BILLY BUSHWACKER neck 4th, KAYVEE (4lb better off) 4½l 10th, STONE RIDGE (4lb better off) 1¾l 13th, NIGHT DANCE (4lb better off) 3l 16th and COMANCHE COMPANION (3lb better off) 5l 22nd. AL REET 4l 2nd of 16 to Nautical Pet in listed race at Leopardstown (7f, yielding). ROVING MINSTREL short-head 2nd of 11 to Akil in handicap over course and distance (good to soft), with HOH EXPRESS neck 3rd. PENGAMON beat Queen Of All Birds 2½l in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 1m). SHOW FAITH 2l 4th of 39 to Cap Juluca in handicap at Newmarket (1m 1f, good to firm) with KAYVEE (4lb better off) 2½l 8th, HOH EXPRESS (5lb better off) 5l 19th, ROVING MINSTREL (1lb worse off) ½l 21st and BILLY BUSHWACKER (1lb better off) 4l 28th. SHARP PROSPECT beat Set Table 3l in handicap over course and distance (good to firm) penultimate start.
Selection: BILLY BUSHWACKER

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
B Hills	21	121	17.4	Pat Eddery	31	183	16.9
J Dunlop	17	107	15.9	L Dettori	27	168	16.1
S Woods	3	19	15.8	T Sprake	3	20	15.0
M Channon	10	70	14.3	K Darley	31	214	14.5
J Berry	15	111	13.5	W Carson	27	195	13.8
M McCormack	3	25	12.0	R Hughes	4	30	13.3

4.15 MIDLAND COPYING DONCASTER SHIELD CONDITIONS STAKES
C4
(£7,553: 1m 4f) (7 runners)

No	Draw	Form	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
501	(1)	153120-	JUYUSH 240 (C,D,F) (H Al Maktoum) B Hills 4-9-4	W Carson	84
502	(7)	130441-	DARAYDAN 148 (D,F,G) (P Savill) Lady Herries 4-9-2	K Darley	89
503	(2)	2/16054-	PENNY A DAY 22J (CD,F,G,S) (J Good) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-2	A Culhane	83
504	(3)	320400-	IOMIO 154 (D,F,G) (The Dayspring Co Ltd) C Brittain 5-8-12	B Doyle	94
505	(6)	63/6200-	LINPAC WEST 189 (D,G,S) (Ms K Jansen) D Nicholls 10-8-12	Alex Greaves	89
506	(4)	400530-	RIGHT WIN 11J (B,D,F,G,S) (C Kavanagh) R Hannon 6-8-12	R Hughes	[illegible]
507	(5)	11	RAINBOW TOP 39 (G) (B Haggas) W Haggas 4-8-10	R Cochrane	77

BETTING: 5-2 Right Win, 3-1 Daraydan, 7-2 Juyush, 5-1 Iomio, 6-1 Penny A Day, 12-1 Linpac West, 14-1 Rainbow Top

1995: FIRE WORSHIPPER 4-8-10 L Dettori (11-2) J Gosden 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

JUYUSH 2½l 2nd of 5 to Grey Shot in 5-runner listed race at Newmarket (1m 7f, good to firm) on penultimate start. DARAYDAN beat Kristal's Paradise a head in 7-runner listed handicap at Newmarket (2m, good to firm). PENNY A DAY 15¾l 4th of 5 to Sebastian in conditions race at Haydock (1m 4f, good to soft).
IOMIO 14l 7th of 12 to Phantom Gold in group III Perpetual St Simon Stakes at Newbury (1m 4f 5yd, good to soft). LINPAC WEST best effort last term 1¾l 2nd of 6 to Kharnaseen in conditions race at Nottingham (1m 6f, good).
RIGHT WIN 8½l 3rd of 10 to Germany in group I Grosser Preis Von Baden at Baden-Baden (1m 4f, soft) on penultimate start. RAINBOW TOP completed double beating Quality 5l in 7-runner conditions race at Lingfield (AW, 1m 2f).
Selection: RIGHT WIN

4.45 CAMMIDGE TROPHY
C4
(Listed race: £12,648: 6f) (10 runners)

No	Draw	Form	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
601	(1)	351000-	COOL JAZZ 104 (D,F,S) (S Manana) C Brittain 5-9-7	B Doyle	98
602	(2)	010506-	HARD TO FIGURE 189 (D,F,G,S) (J Mursell) R Hodges 10-9-5	R Cochrane	94
603	(8)	344800-	MONTENDRE 140 (CD,F,G) (D Mort) M McCormack 9-9-5	J Reid	95
604	(6)	215001-	DOMULLA 156 (D,G,S) (A Boon) R Akehurst 6-9-2	T Quinn	94
605	(7)	002285-	FIRE DOME 140 (G) (M Al-Shuaibi) R Hannon 4-9-2	R Hughes	89
606	(10)	141114-	IKTAMAL 161 (D,F,G) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-9-2	Paul Eddery	89
607	(4)	006006-	THE PUZZLER 132 (D,F,G,S) (Lady Richard Wellesley) B Hills 5-9-2	W Carson	90
608	(3)	401001-	CARRANITA 140 (CD,F,G,S) (Lamb Lane Associates) B Palling 6-9-0	T Sprake	[illegible]
609	(9)	120600-	DARING DESTINY 189 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Wright) K Burke 5-9-0	L Dettori	66
610	(5)	000135-	FANTASY RACING 150 (D,F,G,S) (Aldridge Racing) M Channon 4-8-11	Pat Eddery	77

BETTING: 4-1 Carranita, 9-2 Domulla, 5-1 Cool Jazz, Montendre, 6-1 Iktamal, 7-1 Hard To Figure, 8-1 The Puzzler, 10-1 Daring Destiny, 14-1 Fire Dome, 33-1 Fantasy Racing.

1995: MONTENDRE 8-9-2 J Reid (13-2) M McCormack 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

COOL JAZZ best effort last term beat Young Em short-head in group III Diadem Stakes at Ascot (6f, soft) with MONTENDRE (2lb better off) 1½l 6th and CARRANITA (4lb better off) 10½l 11th. Earlier 3l 5th of 29 to Royale Figurine in handicap at Ayr (6f, good) with HARD TO FIGURE (10lb better off) 2l 6th, FIRE DOME (4lb better off) 3¾l 12th and DARING DESTINY (5lb better off) 20l 28th. DOMULLA beat Spaniards Close 3l in handicap at Newbury (6f, good to soft) with CARRANITA (14lb better off) 3½l 9th and MONTENDRE (11lb better off) short-head 10th. IKTAMAL 2¾l 4th of 12 to Royale Figurine in listed race at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). CARRANITA beat Branston Abby 1¾l in listed race over course and distance (good to firm) with FIRE DOME (3lb better off) 3¼l 5th and MONTENDRE (3lb better off) 2½l 9th.
Selection: MONTENDRE

5.15 SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,883: 6f) (17 runners)

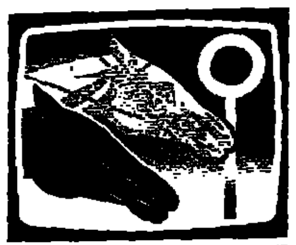
No	Draw	Form	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
1	(5)	0-	ARABIAN HEIGHTS 182 (P Leonard) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0	K Fallon	–
2	(17)		AUTOBERRY (Mrs E Berry) C Fairhurst 9-0	W Woods	–
3	(16)	0-	DANAMICH 217 (M Burke Developments Ltd) J Berry 9-0	J Carroll	–
4	(7)	4	FALCON'S FLAME 5 (C Webster) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0	M Deering	73
5	(9)	204-	FOREST BOY 175 (Highgrove Developments Ltd) K McAuliffe 9-0	S Sanders	79
6	(10)	3-	FRONTMAN 120 (Mrs J Hazell) T Barron 9-0	J Fortune	81
7	(11)	022-	GREEN BARRIES 141 (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver	[illegible]
8	(15)	3-	MAGIC MAIL 170 (G Coull) J Eustace 9-0	R Cochrane	91
9	(13)	0-	NO HIDING PLACE 211 (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hanbury 9-0	J Stack (3)	70
10	(4)		PROUD LOOK (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hills 9-0	L Dettori	–
11	(2)		RIVERBOURNE (Mrs N Crook) M Channon 9-0	R Hughes	–
12	(6)	354320-	SHARP MONTY 215 (R Leah) R Hollinshead 9-0	K Darley	77
13	(3)		SHARVIC (A Monk) Miss M Milligan 9-0	J Quinn	–
14	(1)	02-	SIHAFI 171 (H Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0	W Carson	88
15	(14)	5-	SPOTTED EAGLE 297 (Lord Carnarvon) R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill (5)	81
16	(8)		LOOSE TALK (Mrs S Davis) W Jarvis 8-9	T Quinn	–
17	(12)	00	SUPREME ILLUSION 45 (J Berry) John Berry 8-9	Amy Quirk (7)	61

BETTING: 5-2 Green Barries, 4-1 Magic Mail, 6-1 Sihafi, Proud Look, 8-1 No Hiding Place, 10-1 Loose Talk, Spotted Eagle, 12-1 others

1995: FATA 9-0 W Carson (8-1) P Walwyn 20 ran

☐ **Mark Tompkins, the Newmarket trainer, saddled his first winner for four months when 20-1 chance Cool Edge won the £20,000-added William Hill Spring Handicap at Doncaster yesterday. Racing on the far side, Cool Edge quickened to the front approaching the final furlong to beat Lynton Lad by 1¼ lengths, with Dances With Hooves a further length back in third. If the ground remains soft, Cool Edge could return to action in the Spring Cup at Newbury next month.**

Supreme Lady to progress again



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

NEWBURY
BBC1

1.00: Turning Trix was badly hampered in the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Chase at Cheltenham and that run is best forgotten. Previously, David Nicholson's progressive chaser ran well here behind Terao and he is worth another chance. Do Be Brief bounced back to form here 18 days ago when defeating Philip's Woody and will appreciate the ground conditions, but **Suny Bay** is the most progressive horse in the field. An impressive winner at Towcester, he was going well at Sandown 11 weeks ago when slipping on a bend and fracturing his jaw. Provided Charlie Brooks's chaser is fully recovered, he should go close.

1.30: Frogmarch has impressed when winning novice events at Newbury and Windsor but looks to have his fair share of weight against experienced handicappers. Star Market thrives on his racing and after running with credit at Cheltenham bolted in at Hereford three days later. But his best form is on right-handed tracks. **Teinein** bounced back to form when short-headed by Divertimiento at Chepstow and is the one they all have to beat.

2.00: Henrietta Knight nominated this race for **Supreme Lady** in early January after her well-bred mare got off the mark over hurdles at Leicester. The five-year-old subsequently showed even better form when winning at Fontwell and there is every reason to believe she can progress again now that she tackles a distance of ground. Goldenswift is twice a winner over this distance on softish ground. Along with Miss Optimist, she looks the main danger.

DONCASTER
CHANNEL 4

3.00: Projection, winner of a 21-runner maiden at Newmarket last autumn, is well regarded by Barry Hills and will be a hot favourite. However, ground conditions here are very different and with two Hills-trained favourites having flopped this week, **Mironov** is a value alternative. The son of Marju won his only start in Italy on softish ground and has pleased Mick Channon during the winter.

3.40: See above.

4.15: An early season puzzler made even more complicated by the soft-ground loving Right Win returning to the Flat after running poorly in the Champion Hurdle. Rainbow Top makes his turf debut after easily winning two all-weather races, but in a contest with limited betting appeal **Daraydan** could oblige. Winner of a listed rated stakes at Newmarket last October, he has wintered well and should relish conditions underfoot.

4.45: With several runners preferring to be held up, this may produce a falsely run race where riding tactics are all important. **Carranita**, winner of a listed race over course and distance last November, revels in the mud and should go well.

Richard Evans

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

1.00 Turning Trix
1.30 Teinein
2.00 Guinda
2.35 Dream Ride
3.05 Dark Stranger
3.35 Abbey Street
4.05 French Holly

GOING: SOFT (CHASE COURSE); HEAVY (HURDLES) — SIS

1.00 BROWN CHAMBERLIN HANDICAP CHASE
BBC1
(£7,064: 3m) (9 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
1	F-32444	FLYER'S NAP 11 (G,S) (R Tory) R Alner 10-12-0	Mr P Henley (5)	98
2	35P-3P5	MERE CLASS 15 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Elsbury) C Brooks 10-12-0	D Gallagher	93
3	111F-15	SUNY BAY 77 (BF,S) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 7-11-12	G Bradley	90
4	1-32148	STRONG MEDICINE 11 (D,F,G) (D Sell) K Bailey 9-11-7	A Thornton	90
5	56-1U40	YORKSHIRE GALE 36 (D,G,S) (B Naylor) J Gifford 10-11-4	L Aspell (5)	95
6	00-112P	TURNING TRIX 11 (D,G,S) (M Davies) D Nicholson 9-11-3	R Dunwoody	95
7	405215-	IRISH STAMP 332 (D,F,S) (P D Donnelly) F Murphy 7-10-13	P Carberry	91
8	F0-4401	DO BE BRIEF 18 (B,CD,G,S) (E Brown) Mrs J Pitman 11-10-8	W Marston	[illegible]
9	3112P	CLAXTON GREENE 1060 (D,F,G,S) (Bezaque Partners) M Pipe 12-10-8	C Maude	–

BETTING: 7-2 Suny Bay, 9-2 Do Be Brief, 5-1 Flyer's Nap, Turning Trix, 6-1 Yorkshire Gale, 8-1 Strong Medicine, Irish Stamp, 10-1 others.

1995: WELL BRIEFED 6-10-9 B Powell (100-30) R Buckler 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

FLYER'S NAP 23l 4th of 13 to Sunley Bay in handicap chase here (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. MERE CLASS 9¾l 5th of 11 to Norman Conqueror in amateurs chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good). SUNY BAY beat Corner Boy 5l in 8-runner handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, soft) penultimate start, with DO BE BRIEF (18lb better off) 20l 4th. STRONG MEDICINE 14½l 4th of 12 to Master Oats in handicap chase at Haydock (2m 4f, good) on penultimate start. YORKSHIRE GALE 53l 5th of 9 to Arthur's Minstrel in handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good to soft). TURNING TRIX 3l 2nd of 12 to Terao in limited handicap chase here (2m 4f, good to soft) on penultimate start. IRISH STAMP 2½l 3rd of 9 to Butches Boy in grade I chase at Punchestown (3m 1f, good), April 95. DO BE BRIEF beat Philip's Woody 3l in 6-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good to soft).
Selection: DO BE BRIEF

1.30 LAMBOURN HANDICAP HURDLE
BBC1
(£5,215: 2m 110yd) (12 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
1	F03050	KADASTROF 9 (D,S) (A Paton) R Dickin 6-12-0	B Powell	95
2	5-1046F	HOPS AND POPS 16 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) (Happy Band) R Alner 9-11-13	Mr P Henley (5)	90
3	3500/2-P	TAROUDANT 28 (G) (G Farndon) R Woodhouse 9-11-13	D Gallagher	92
4	050/20-0	MAJOR BUGLER 9 (CD,S) (M Kerr-Dineen) G Balding 7-11-10	R Dunwoody	90
5	3-06216	KINGSFOLD PET 14 (CD,BF,G,S) (Exors of G Nye) M Haynes 7-11-8	D Skyrme	[illegible]
6	5111	FROGMARCH 11 (CD,S) (Mrs H Mills) R Phillips 6-11-0	J Railton	95
7	4-41142	TEINEIN 14 (D,BF,S) (G Sainsbury) T Forster 5-10-12	A P McCoy	91
8	541001	STAR MARKET 7 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Joynes) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-9	C Llewellyn	96
9	220520	TEJANO GOLD 9 (D,G,S) (P Bradley) P Bradley 6-10-6	A Thornton	98
10	132402	WINDWARD ARIOM 11 (D,F,G,S) (A Stuart) K Burke 10-10-5	R Supple	93
11	423623	TWICE A NIGHT 27 (D,F) (All in the Mind) D Nicholson 7-10-0	W Marston	96
12	13-200	RAGIB 60 (CD,G) (A Kidd, A Johnson) P Ritchens 5-10-0	S Fox (5)	91

Long handicap: Ragib 9-13.

BETTING: 9-4 Frogmarch, 9-2 Star Market, 5-1 Teinein, 8-1 Major Bugler, Kingsfold Pet, 10-1 Twice A Night, Windward Ariom, 12-1 others.

1995: NASHVILLE STAR 4-10-6 N Williamson (16-1) R Mathew 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

KADASTROF 14l 5th of 10 to Thinking Twice in limited handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft) penultimate start. KINGSFOLD PET beat TEJANO GOLD (2lb better off) 2l in handicap hurdle over course and distance penultimate start. FROGMARCH beat Granby Bell 9l in 17-runner novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, soft). TEINEIN short-head 2nd of 11 to Divertimiento in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft). STAR MARKET beat Comn Hill 6l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, soft). TEJANO GOLD 16l 7th of 28 to Star Rage in grade III County Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good). WINDWARD ARIOM 14l 2nd of 8 to World Express in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, soft).
Selection: FROGMARCH

2.00 HOECHST PANACUR EBF MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE HANDICAP FINAL
BBC1
(£10,814: 2m 5f) (19 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
1	50-1125	GUINDA 35 (F) (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-10	C Llewellyn	90
2	10-6311	MISS OPTIMIST 24 (F,S) (Plough Partners) D Nicholson 6-11-9	R Dunwoody	89
3	151213	GOLDENSWIFT 19 (CD,G,S) (Mrs S Watts) G Balding 6-11-6	A P McCoy	96
4	2-2311	SUPREME LADY 68 (S) (Supreme Lady Partners) Miss H Knight 5-11-5	J F Titley	90
5	00-1205	SWING QUARTET 21 (G) (R Hartley) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-4	T Jenks	97
6	2-1521	HENRIETTA HOWARD 14 (F,S) (Mrs S T Jones) Mrs D Haine 6-11-1	G Hogan (3)	91
7	F52-361	SAIL BY THE STARS 16 (D,S) (T Noonan) T Forster 7-11-0	D Gallagher	85
8	0-46126	MISS DISKIN 37 (S) (M Forrester) R Buckler 7-10-13	B Powell	94
9	622-231	ROYAL AG NAG 21 (G) (Royal Agricultural College) P Hobbs 6-10-12	G Tormey (3)	[illegible]
10	00-353	TELLICHERRY 24 (Solo State Supplies) Miss H Knight 7-10-10	Mr J Culloty (5)	85
11	5016	CARMEL'S JOY 16 (S) (Mrs A Gamble) T George 7-10-10	M A Fitzgerald	92
12	0-01351	HARVEST VIEW 8 (F,S) (P Brown) C Brooks 6-10-6	G Bradley	97
13	60/0-P51	BELMORE CLOUD 17 (S) (Mrs A Hartnett) M Pipe 7-10-1	C Maude	94
14	0420	PAVLOVA 21 (Mrs M McGlone) R Rowe 6-10-0	D O'Sullivan	89
15	251010	OWENS QUEST 66 (G,S) (London Racing Club) T Etherington 6-10-0	R Rourke	93
16	042P5	OATIS ROSE 24 (A Figg) M Sheppard 6-10-0	P Carberry	94
17	0-1000	MERILENA 16 (D,F) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6-10-0	K Gaule (3)	98
18	320034	COPPERHURST 16 (G) (W Kemp) W Kemp 5-10-0	G Cahill (5)	84
19	0-04562	CERIDWEN 7 (B) (Mrs S Greathead) T Greathead 6-10-0	W Humphreys	92

Long handicap: Owens Quest 9-13, Oatis Rose 9-10, Merilena 9-8, Copperhurst 9-7, Ceridwen 9-6

BETTING: 5-1 Belmore Cloud, Henrietta Howard, 6-1 Supreme Lady, 7-1 Miss Optimist, 8-1 Guinda, 9-1 Sail By The Stars, 10-1 others

1995: CONQUERING LEADER 6-11-7 M A Fitzgerald (100-30) N Henderson 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

GUINDA 3l 2nd of 14 to Silver Shred in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to soft). MISS OPTIMIST beat HENRIETTA HOWARD (1lb better off) 2½l in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with TELLICHERRY (6lb better off) 8l 3rd. GOLDENSWIFT 7l 3rd of 19 to Tara Rambler in 19-runner novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good). SUPREME LADY beat OATIS ROSE (12lb better off) 6l in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, soft) with MERILENA (19lb better off) 64l 9th. SAIL BY THE STARS beat Cayper 12l in 18-runner novice hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, soft) with CERIDWEN (14lb better off) distant 5th, CARMEL'S JOY (11lb better off) 3l 6th and MERILENA (21lb better off) 7th. ROYAL AG NAG beat Sebastopol 8l in conditionals handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, good). HARVEST VIEW beat Bon Voyage 4l in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, firm). BELMORE CLOUD beat Coxwell Stepton 1l in novices handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 4f, soft). COPPERHURST 25l 4th of 13 to Slaught Son in novices handicap hurdle at Carlisle (3m 110yd, good).
Selection: ROYAL AG NAG (nap)

2.35 FINAL NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £3,155: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
1	0-10	BOXGROVE MAN 10 (S) (A Lloyd Webber) J Old 6-11-7	J Osborne	–
2	223223	DREAM RIDE 24 (G Mordaunt, C Clarke) D Nicholson 6-11-7	R Dunwoody	98
3	60	EQUINOX 24 (Equinox Synd) Mrs M Jones 5-11-7	D Byrne	–
4	5-50	GENERAL SALUTE 71 (Lord Chetwode) G Balding 6-11-7	A P McCoy	66
5	00P2	GRANBY BELL 11 (H Wallon) P Hayward 5-11-7	M A Fitzgerald	96
6	0	MAKE A STAND 164 (P Deal) M Pipe 5-11-7	C Maude	–
7	P	MASTER GOODENOUGH 19 (Moonrakers Partners) A Foster 5-11-7	W Marston	–
8		ROYAL BANKER (R Ogden) F Murphy 6-11-7	P Carberry	–
9	06-	SEVEN BROOKS 304 (A Gadd) J Fox 6-11-7	S Fox (5)	–
10	05	THYNE IN MOTION 18 (Mrs M McKenna) C Brooks 5-11-7	G Bradley	72
11	0-00	UPHAM RASCAL 24 (R Brookworth) D Gandolfo 5-11-7	D Leahy	–
12	0F0UP6	NAHLA 21 (S) (Sale Soz) Miss J Doyle 6-11-2	S Curran (3)	74
13	4406	CADDY'S FIRST 28 (Caddy's Four) S Mellor 4-10-13	N Mann	[illegible]
14	00	POLY AMANSHAA 66 (M Banks) M Banks 4-10-13	D Skyrme	79
15	003	RAMSDENS 15 (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 4-10-13	C Llewellyn	82

BETTING: 5-2 Dream Ride, 5-1 Boxgrove Man, 7-1 Ramsdens, 8-1 Granby Bell, Nahla, 10-1 Thyne In Motion, 12-1 others

1995: NORSE RAIDER 5-11-7 P Holley (8-1) D Elsworth 17 ran

3.05 MARCH NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,818: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
1	P-21232	COOLREE 18 (D,F,G) (B Weston) P Nicholls 8-11-10	A P McCoy	95
2	412	DARK STRANGER 14 (S) (T Neill) C Brooks 5-11-10	G Bradley	87
3	F42-634	ROYAL SEGOS 18 (Mrs N Duffield) Mrs P Duffield 9-11-4	P Holley	96
4	240444	GREEN'S FAIR 12 (S) (N Amer) G Harr 6-10-11	S Burrough	[illegible]
5	4/0P/U-0	THE BRUD 77 (Mrs J Bishop) S Sherwood 8-10-8	J Osborne	–
6	3-3230F	POLICEMANS PRIDE 7 (R Dove) M Madgwick 7-10-5	B Fenton (3)	69

BETTING: 4-5 Dark Stranger, 4-1 Coolree, 6-1 Royal Segos, 8-1 Policemans Pride, 12-1 Green's Fair, 14-1 The Brud.

1995: POSTAGE STAMP 8-10-8 A Maguire (9-1) F Murphy 9 ran

3.35 FINAL NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £3,136: 2m 110yd) (20 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
1		COUNTRY STAR 156F (Fahd Salman) C Brooks 5-11-7	G Bradley	–
2	3-	CRIMSON KING 329 (S Sainsbury) T Forster 5-11-7	A Thornton	–
3	346-0	DREAM HERE 10 (A Gadd) J Fox 8-11-7	Mr A Balding (7)	86
4	6-B	GENERAL SHIRLEY 12 (P Hedger) P Hedger 5-11-7	M Clinton (7)	91
5	2405	HARLEQUIN CHORUS 14 (Harlequin Software) J Old 6-11-7	G Upton	89
6	2410-2F	INTERMAGIC 5 (BF,G) (Mrs J Cleary) J Fox 6-11-7	S Fox (5)	[illegible]
7	03-04	MAYB-MAYB 10 (J Neville) J Neville 6-11-7	W Marston	72
8	00-102	PEACE LORD 29 (S) (P Gibbings) Mrs D Haine 6-11-7	G Hogan (3)	93
9	5-6000	PILGRIM'S MISSION 22 (V) (J Kinnear) G Balding 6-11-7	B Clifford	67
10	000P4/	SPANISH BLAZE 691 (Blaze Partners) Mrs M Jones 8-11-7	D Byrne	–
11	400	STORM TIGER 14 (W Partnership) S Mellor 5-11-7	N Mann	–
12	624	THE CAPTAIN'S WISH 17 (Miss A Murray) D Nicholson 5-11-7	R Dunwoody	92
13	0-P0	TREGONY 7 (Mrs A Barclay) Mrs A Barclay 6-11-7	C Llewellyn	–
14	40-600	WHISPERING COURT 21 (Court Jesters) A Turnell 6-11-7	L Harvey	74
15	0/0	RAISE THE LIMIT 18 (T Waddington) G Balding 7-11-2	B Fenton (3)	–
16	0	ABBEY STREET 38 (B Suman-Brown) O Sherwood 4-10-13	J Osborne	–
17	05	KRATON GARDEN 17 (C Wilson) T Casey 4-10-13	M A Fitzgerald	67
18	035	PLEASANT SURPRISE 10 (BF) (Knight Hawks) M Pipe 4-10-13	C Maude	70
19	2	RISING DOUGH 17 (Bryan Pennick) G L Moore 4-10-13	A P McCoy	93
20		TIME LEADER 266F (Big Time Boys) R Dickin 4-10-13	B Powell	–

BETTING: 3-1 Country Star, 6-1 Crimson King, Intermagic, 7-1 Rising Dough, 8-1 Peace Lord, Abbey Street, 10-1 The Captain's Wish, 14-1 others

1995: NORSE RAIDER 5-11-7 P Holley (8-1) D Elsworth 17 ran

4.05 SPRING STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£2,626: 2m 110yd) (25 runners)

No	Form	Horse	Jockey	Rtg
1	1	FRENCH HOLLY 36 (G) (K Flood) F Murphy 5-11-11	Mr K Whelan (5)	–
2	1	KILCARNE BAY 147 (G) (Compass Partners) S Sherwood 6-11-11	S Curran (3)	–
3	3	BANK AVENUE 22 (S Hemstock) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4	Mr M McGrath (7)	–
4		DAWN LEADER (Bonusprint) O Sherwood 5-11-4	J Osborne	–
5	00	EDGEMOOR PRINCE 19 (Racing Hares) P Hobbs 5-11-4	G Tormey (3)	–
6	4	GET REAL 21 (BF) (Pioneer Heat-Treatment) N Henderson 5-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	–
7		INDIAN DELIGHT (Mrs J Richards) M Pipe 6-11-4	C Maude	–
8	3	IVORY COASTER 18 (D Andrews) B De Haan 5-11-4	G Upton	–
9	0-	KIMBROSS 381 (Mrs J Robshaw) L Cottrell 5-11-4	D Salter (5)	–
10	0	LEAP FROG 14 (R Cooper) N Gaselee 5-11-4	F Cooper (7)	–
11		LIVELY ENCOUNTER (F Sainsbury) Mrs M Jones 5-11-4	D Byrne	–
12	2	MOON DEVIL 112 (P Goulandris) M Campion 6-11-4	J Railton	–
13		MR BOJANGLES (Mrs D Lousada) K Bailey 5-11-4	A Thornton	–
14		MR GOONHILLY (Mrs R Stanley) R Alner 6-11-4	Mr P Henley (5)	–
15		NEARLY AN EYE (P Barber) P Nicholls 5-11-4	A P McCoy	–
16		READY MONEY CREEK (Roach Foods Ltd) O Sherwood 5-11-4	J A McCarthy	–
17	0	ROYAL RAVEN 38 (A Weller) J Gifford 5-11-4	P Hide	–
18		SHEKELS (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 5-11-4	G Bradley	–
19		BALLYQUINTET (A Hodge) H Hodge 5-10-13	D Skyrme	–
20		MISS MYLETTE (B & B Partners) A Carroll 5-10-13	W Marston	–
21	0	POLLYANNA 18 (G Darby) M Muggeridge 5-10-13	M Molloy (7)	–
22		QUARE DREAM'S (B & M McHugh Ltd) T Casey 5-10-13	R Dunwoody	–
23		SECURON LADY (Mrs R Proctor) N Henderson 5-10-13	J R Kavanagh	–
24	U	ANOTHER COCKPIT 14 (Cockpit Crew) P Hobbs 4-10-10	L Harvey	–
25		RED VIPER (R Gardner-Brown) N Lampard 4-10-10	P Carberry	–

BETTING: 3-1 Kilcarne Bay, 9-2 French Holly, 6-1 Bank Avenue, 10-1 Edgemoor Prince, 12-1 others

1995: INTERMAGIC 5-10-13 S Fox (7-1) G Balding 21 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
O Sherwood	19	77	24.7	P Carberry	5	12	41.7
D Nicholson	27	116	23.3	J Osborne	42	166	25.3
N Henderson	25	116	21.6	R Dunwoody	39	155	25.2
M Pipe	18	88	20.5	S Fox	3	12	25.0
A Turnell	10	52	19.2	W Marston	9	39	23.1

Coldstream injured

COLDSTREAM, the Godolphin-trained 2,000 Guineas hope, is to miss the race after fracturing his near-hind leg (Julian Muscat writes). Simon Crisford, of Godolphin, said: "The injury is obviously disappointing but we are optimistic that Coldstream will return to the track in due course."

هكذا من الأصل

Seasoned Wood retains his powers

FROM DAVID RHYS JONES
IN ADELAIDE

BOWLS is a young man's game these days, but William Walker Wood, MBE, bucks the trend. At 57, he is the oldest man left in the world outdoor championships here and yesterday he rolled back the years to help Scotland into the final of the triples.

Playing as well as ever, Wood was the pivot, effectively controlling the action from his position between the lead, Kenny Logan, and the skip, George Adrain, as Scotland defeated South Africa 23-11. The Scots will play the New Zealand trio of Andrew Curtain, David File and Peter Belliss in the final tomorrow.

In the pairs semi-finals today, Australia meet Scotland and Ireland take on Wales. A count of five on the twelfth end broke an 8-8 deadlock and gave Cameron Curtis and Rex Johnston, the Commonwealth champions, a 13-8 lead over the high-profile England pair, Tony Allcock and Andy Thomson. The Australians mopped up, winning 24-11 and ending the prospect of a United Kingdom monopoly in the pairs.

The semi-final between Australia and the champions, Richard Corsie and Alex Marshall, of Scotland, both unbeaten, should be a fascinating encounter. Will Thomas and Robert Weale, of Wales, and Jeremy Henry and Sammy Allen, of Ireland, survived surprise defeats in the final round-robin session.

Henry, 21, is one of the youngest competitors in the event, while Allen, his skip, is only three months younger than Wood. They almost threw their chances away when they lost to Kenya, but collected seven shots over the last three ends to tie with New Zealand at the top of the section B pairs table.

Level on points and on shots, they got through because they had beaten New Zealand in the match between the two top teams yesterday. Wales went through despite losing 24-19 to Jersey.

Bath in sight of Twickenham again

Hill prepares for happy return with Gloucester

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHEN this season began, Richard Hill was the chairman of selectors at Bath. Today, he will walk into the Recreation Ground as director of rugby for Gloucester, whose unenviable task it is to halt Bath's headlong rush into yet another Pilkington Cup final.

The story of Hill's abrupt departure from Bath, the club he served for a decade as a player, is history now. There was not room for him and John Hall and perhaps English rugby was the beneficiary, in that two such intense personalities now divide their talents between two clubs, rather than pool them for the benefit of only one. Certainly Gloucester, despite their lowly league position, have been transformed under Hill's guidance.

Six months ago, they were a club in shock. Their nadir came at Orrell early in October, when their play was so bad that Hill and his coaching colleagues, Peter Kingston, John Fidler and Viv Woolley, were reduced to white-faced silence. "When I analysed that game I found we gave away possession 36 times," Hill said. "I went to Gloucester with plenty of strategies but there was no game on which you could build them."

Gradually, the players developed the ability to string phases of play together, only for Hill to discover that they lacked the fitness to sustain the effort for 80 minutes. "The players have knuckled down and I have seen significant improvements," the former England scrum half said. "I can see the form of clubs like Saracens, Orrell and Bristol dropping off and ours improving. Whether that will be enough to keep us in the first division, I don't know, but the spirit in the club is fantastic and the cup has brought a tangible reward.

"It has kept our season alive, it gives a buzz at training and the nice thing about the semi-final is the excitement among the players. They feel good, they know they are playing well and they can't wait. I have to be realistic: playing Bath is a massive task. This game is about 18 months too early in the development of this Gloucester side, but we can use it as a yardstick of progress."

Others recognise Hill's achievement. Phil Greening and Dave Sims, the club captain, have played for England A this season, youngsters such as Rob Fidler and Scott Benton have settled in, and now Ian Smith has returned from Scotland duties and the effervescent Mark Mapletoft from injury, after a year recovering from damaged cruciate ligaments. Compared with Bath's swath of internationals, it may not seem much, but there is a hunger about Gloucester which was not there before.

"There will be no mixed feelings about returning to Bath," Hill said. "I'll feel very proud walking in with these players from Gloucester. As a player, I was passionate about everything to do with Bath but until you become involved with another club, you don't realise how that passion can develop in another way. I'll enjoy the day and so will they."

If Bath, playing at home in a semi-final for the first time, are favoured to reach their tenth final in 13 years, Leicester seem even greater certainties to win the other semi-final, at Sunbury, against London Irish, from the second division. On a yielding surface, the Leicester forwards will surely deny the fluent Irish backs — directed for the first time in a competitive game by David Humphreys, the Ireland stand-off half — the ball they need to play a wide game.

Clive Woodward, the former Leicester centre now coaching the Exiles, makes no secret of his primary ambition, promotion. Even so, 6,750 people will cram into Sunbury — not a ticket is to be had for love or money — to see the men in green try to win against the odds in a match that brings the country's two leading points-scorers, John Liley and Michael Corcoran, face to face.

☐ Cornwall may have no say in the county championship final this season but they may yet have a day out at Twickenham if Helston win their semi-final of the Pilkington Shield, against Wellingborough Old Grammarians at the Bridgwater ground. In the other semi-final, at Wakefield, Medicals meet Old Centralians, neither having conceded more than one try in seven shield matches. They should be equally matched.

TEAMS

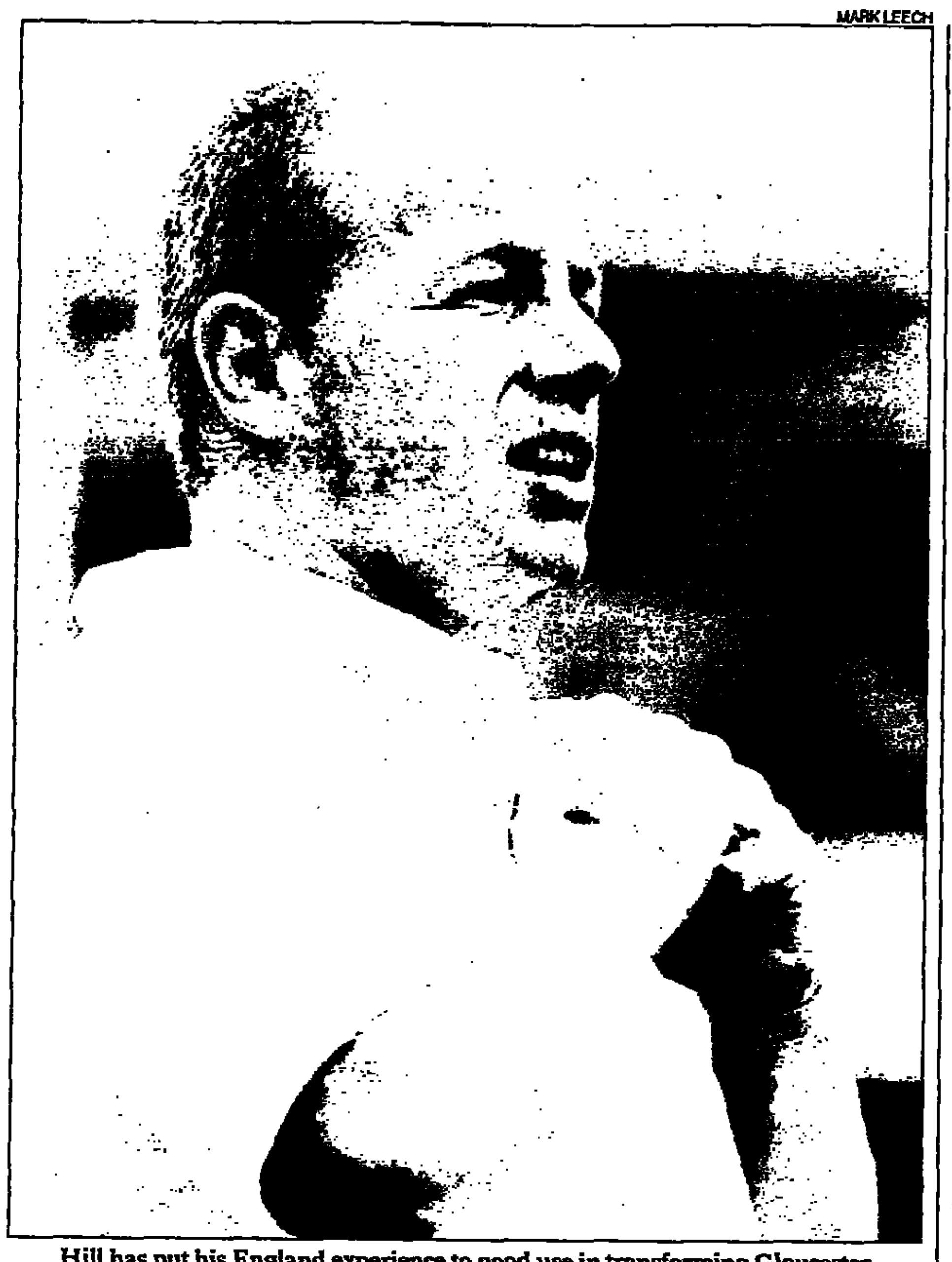
BATH: J Callard, J Sleightholme, P de Glanville, J Guscott, A Adebayo, M Catt, A Nicol, D Hilton, G Dawe, V Ubogu, S Ojomoh, M Haag, N Redman, A Robinson, B Clarke

GLOUCESTER: M Mapletoft, M Peters, D Caskie, M Roberts, M Lloyd, M Kimber, S Benton, A Windo, P Greening, A Deacon, P Glanville, R Fidler, D Sims, I Smith, C Raymond

LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea, M Corcoran, R Henderson, P Flood, J Bishop, D Humphreys, T Ewington, L Mooney, R Kellam, G Halpin, A Dougan, A Meadows, C Hall, C Bird, B Walsh

LEICESTER: J Liley, S Hackney, R Robinson, P Delaney, R Underwood, J Hamilton, A Kardooni, G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth, J Wells, M Johnson, M Poole, N Back, D Richards

MARK LEECH



Hill has put his England experience to good use in transforming Gloucester

Davies returns on cup mission

THE alliance of Llanelli brain and Cardiff brawn — if that is not too great a generalisation — finally earned Wales an overdue success in the five nations' championship last weekend (David Hands writes). Today the two clubs are rivals at Stradey Park in the quarter-finals of the Swalec Cup, a match which gives Jonathan Davies his greatest examination since his return last autumn from rugby league.

Once, Davies was lauded by the Stradey terraces. Now he plays for Cardiff at stand-off half, the position denied him most of this season by the form of Adrian Davies; but the younger Davies is struggling with a thigh injury that he has carried since November and faces the possibility of an operation, so Jonathan must help Cardiff justify their tag as cup favourites.

To confuse matters further, another member of the clan, Phil Davies, will be doing his best to deny Cardiff. He has played in seven cup finals for Llanelli and this is due to be his last season with them before joining Leeds as their director of rugby in June — unless Llanelli can put together a package that will keep him in Wales.

But the most dangerous side in Wales at the moment are Neath, who should dispose of Dunvant at The Gnoll. The cup romantics will hope for a good display by Caerphilly, the second division club, who play Newport.

Swansea, last year's cup winners, must concentrate on making up ground in the Heineken League by beating Bridgend, while, tomorrow, the next generation will be on show at St Helen's in the colts international between Wales and England.

Inaugural games at national stadium

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN AND ALIX RAMSAY

THE inaugural matches will be held at hockey's National Stadium in Milton Keynes tomorrow, when England's men will play India and the women meet France.

The final scramble for places in the Great Britain squad for the Olympics in Atlanta now begins in earnest, with the younger men, Pearn, Hall and Hoskin, staking their claims. Hall and Hoskin were at the Olympic qualifying tournament two months ago in Barcelona and Pearn at the Champions' Trophy tournament last September in Berlin, where he set up the chance for Hall to score the equalising goal in a 1-1 draw against Australia.

Soma Singh, a late replacement for the injured Hazlitt, will probably fill in at left half and McGuire, now fully recovered from his back injury, returns at full back.

India, retaining 14 of their squad from Barcelona, will probably build their attacks around the brilliance of Dhanraj Pillay at centre forward and Mukesh Kumar, the outside right.

The Royal Air Force defeated the Army 2-0 at Aldershot yesterday but the margin of victory was not enough for them to retain the Services title, which went back into the hands of the Army on goal difference. Cartmell, from a short corner, and Powell scored the goals for the RAF in the first half.

There is no play in the men's national league today but everyone in the England women's squad, including the coach and the manager, must play a national league game, with five of them involved in the toughest match in the premier division as Ipswich take on Slough.

Ipswich can take nothing for granted and must win to keep in touch with Hightown at the top of the table. Hightown take on Bracknell, the relegation favourites, and, for them, three points appear guaranteed.

Crow swoops on title leader

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

FOUR winners for Alastair Crow at Wolverhampton last Sunday helped the champion's cause in his attempt to retain the title. He is now five behind the leader, Andrew Parker, who has 14 winners.

Parker's cause has not been helped by the postponement for six days of tomorrow's **Tranwell** meeting. Also waterlogged is today's **Clifton-on-Teme** fixture, which will now be run tomorrow week, and tomorrow's **Mid Devon** card.

Three rides at the **Duke Of Buccleuch's** fixture today could offer some consolation for Parker, who has winning chances on Howayman and Sayin Nowt.

Crow's hopefuls are engaged at the **Bramham Moor** and **Curre** meetings today and at the **Flint & Denbigh** tomorrow and the first aim is to find the easiest restricted race for Pin Up Boy.

Bringing a horse back after injury is always a challenge but Pin Up Boy's case is made special because he is owned by Pat Tollit, the third most successful woman rider in the sport's history with 171 winners. Polly Curling will draw level with Tollit's total if riding two winners at the **Wilton** today. Pip Jones, Alison Dare and Jo Cumings are making a fight of the women's title. Jones rides Handsome Harvey at the Curre as the pair seek their thirteenth successive win.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Bramham Moor, Wetherby, near the A1 (first race 12.30); Crawley & Horsham, Parham, 4m SE of Pulborough (1.30); Curre, Howick, 2m W of Chepstow (12.30); Duke Of Buccleuch's, Friars Haugh, W of Kelso (1.00); Easton Harriers, Higham, 8m NE of Colchester (1.00); Lamerton, Kilworthy, 1m N of Tavistock (1.00); South Wold, Market Rasen, 15m NW of Lincoln (2.00). VWH, Siddington, 2m S of Cirencester (1.30); Weston & Banwell, Cothelstone, 2m N of Bishops Lydeard (1.00); Wilton, Badbury Rings, 4m W of Wimborne (1.00). TOMORROW: Flint & Denbigh, Eaton Hall, 4m S of Chester (12.30); South Herefords, Garnons, 8m W of Hereford (2.00).

BANGOR

THUNDERER
2.10 Indicator. 2.40 George Lane. 3.10 Change The Act. 3.45 Parsons Boy. 4.20 Derring Bridge. 4.55 Seymour Spy. 5.25 Dolce Notte.

GOING: SOFT SIS

2.10 PENLEY NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,130: 2m 1f) (18 runners)

1 2412 ISLAND VISION 156 (F) J O'Shea 6-11-12 Michael Brennan (7)
2 00P0 ALTHREY ARISTOCRAT 17 F Lloyd 6-11-6 DOUBTFUL
3 CHICKCHARNIE 79P R Cockburn 6-11-6 L O'Hara
4 P CHIPARUS 128 (BF) K Bailey 7-11-6 T J Murphy (3)
5 COTTAGE JOKER W Bethell 6-11-6 A S Smith
6 0 CULRAIN 105 T Caldwell 5-11-6 Pat Caldwell
7 EBEN AL HABEEB 201F D McCain 5-11-6 D McCain
8 2P00 ICE COLD IN ALEX 17 W Jenks 5-11-6 DOUBTFUL
9 0-P0 KARIBU 10 J Bennett 5-11-6 R Farrant
10 6P LAWFUL LOVE 60 T Donnelly 6-11-6 T Eley
11 MISTER PINCH 320P C Cowley 7-11-6 E Callaghan (5)
12 06-0 PACIFIC WAR 42 T Dyer 7-11-6 B Storey
13 /0-0 ARIOSO 23 J Needham 8-11-1 Mr R Thornton (7)
14 3PP BELLE ROSE 15 G Richards 6-11-1 A Dobbin
15 GREENACRES STAR 402F W Clay 6-11-1 Guy Lewis (3)
16 000 MILLERS GOLDENGIRL 15 Mrs S Smith 5-11-1 R Guest
17 0205 INDICATOR 24 J Dunn 4-10-12 M Dwyer
18 INTEABADUN 14F A Bailey 4-10-12 T Kent

6-4 Island Vision, 5-1 Indicator, 8-1 Lawful Love, 10-1 Cottage Joker, Belle Rose, 12-1 Chiparus, 14-1 others

2.40 CROSS LANES CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,313: 2m 1f) (20)

1 4051 KADARI 7 (V,G,S) W Clay 7-11-13 Guy Lewis
2 4FU1 MHEMEANLES 17 (D,F,G) J Wilson 6-11-9 D Parker
3 2142 BUCKLEY BOYS 7 (D,G) A Bailey 5-11-7 D Finnegan (5)
4 F-60 TEXAS SCRAMBLE 21 (D,G,S) B Baugh 7-11-6 L Aspell (3)
5 /30- BOLTROSE 316 J O'Shea 6-11-6 R McGrath (3)
6 3P-0 BRIGGS LAD 280 (F) J Birkett 7-11-4 A Manners (5)
7 0000 OWENS DELIGHT 3 (D,F) P Wegmann 6-10-13 S Fowler (7)
8 -560 ANDRATH 4 D Jones 8-10-13 D Fortt
9 0600 BUSHEHR 47F S Coathup 4-10-11 C Rae (5)
10 0515 ORCHIDARMA 25 (D,F) J Dunn 4-10-9 B Harding
11 00PP NORDIC CROWN 8 (D,G,S) M Pipe 5-10-6 B Moore (7)
12 500P RAINBOW WALK 50F J O'Shea 6-10-6 Michael Brennan (3)
13 0P0 BEAU QUEST 17 (B) B Cambidge 9-10-4 T J Murphy
14 5064 GEORGE LANE 25 F Jordan 8-10-2 R Painter
15 5260 HILLTOWN BLUES 63 (G,S) T Dyer 7-10-0 E Callaghan
16 F450 HULLO MARY DOLL 16 S Mellor 7-10-0 Chris Webb
17 0500 ALICANTE 18 (C,F) D McCain 9-10-0 D Walsh
18 0000 CHOWPOR 7 A Carroll 5-10-0 T Dascombe
19 P00 LOCH MARINER 15 S Campion 4-10-0 M Lane (5)
20 0000 MUSICAL VOCATION 3 B Preece 5-10-0 F Leahy

9-2 Kadari, 5-1 Mhemeanles, 6-1 Buckley Boys, 8-1 Orchidarma, 10-1 George Lane, Bushehr, 14-1 others

3.10 ALTHREY WOODHOUSE HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,662: 2m 4f 110yd) (3)

1 -000 MUDAHIM 9 (B,F,G,S) C Broad 10-11-10 M Dwyer
2 2223 CHANGE THE ACT 80 (D,F,G,S) Miss V Williams 11-10-13 R Farrant
3 2141 THE TOASTER 17 (F,G,S) J Gunn 9-10-0 B Harding (3)

11-10 The Toaster, 7-4 Change The Act, 7-2 Mudahim

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Broad, 5 winners from 16 runners, 31.3%; O Sherwood, 6 from 20, 30.0%; K Bailey, 7 from 24, 29.2%; M Pipe, 22 from 76, 28.9%; D Nicholson, 10 from 35, 28.6%

JOCKEYS: F Leahy, 4 winners from 12 rides, 33.3%; B Harding, 5 from 25, 20.0%; M Dwyer, 8 from 42, 19.0%; R Guest, 5 from 27, 18.5%; A Dobbin, 4 from 26, 15.4%; R Farrant, 4 from 33, 12.1%

3.45 MILES MACADAM NOVICES CHASE
(£4,072: 3m 110yd) (6)

1 11 ANDRE LAVAL 11 (D,G,S) K Bailey 7-12-1 T J Murphy
2 5111 PARSONS BOY 5 (D,S) G Richards 7-12-1 A Dobbin
3 603- DERRING BUD 20P (G,S) Lady Susan Brooke 12-11-6 Mr G Shenkin
4 4 OVER THE WREKIN 19 J Needham 9-11-6 Mr R Thornton
5 P0 SAGAVILLE 23 J Norton 6-11-6 W Fry
6 32P- SQUIRES TALE 299 (F,G) W Bethell 8-11-6 A S Smith

Evens Parsons Boy, 5-4 Andre Laval, 10-1 Squires Tale, 16-1 Derring Bud, 20-1 Over The Wrekin, 33-1 Sagaville

4.20 LIGHTWOOD GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,983: 3m) (15)

1 4323 PRIDE OF MAY 18 (V,BF,S) C Fairhurst 5-11-10 J Callaghan
2 5055 FLY BY NORTH 21 (G,S) D Nicholson 8-11-3 X Aizpuru (7)
3 1645 JIHAAD 15 (V,G) J Norton 6-10-10 E Callaghan (5)
4 2P3- JAMESTOWN BOY 513 (B,C,F,G,S) B Preece 8-10-8 Gary Lyons
5 0406 MY SWAN SONG 15 (F,G) J Smith 11-10-7 S Wynne
6 4005 DERRING BRIDGE 7 (S) Mrs S Johnson 6-10-7 D Walsh (5)
7 0035 PHARARE 14 (F) R Woodhouse 6-10-1 L Wyer
8 0054 VISCOUNT TULLY 10 (S) C Jackson 11-10-0 Miss S Jackson
9 1P/0 MURPHAIDEEZ 12 (S) R Fahey 9-10-0 R Hodge
10 -P40 NEW TRIBE 59 (S) J Birkett 5-10-0 L O'Hara
11 PP60 ERLEMO 17 (D,S) W Clay 7-10-0 Guy Lewis (3)
12 /0-0 PLAYFUL JULIET 19 (B,G,S) A Bailey 8-10-0 D Finnegan (7)
13 0405 RUA ROS 18 (S) Mrs S Smith 6-10-0 R Wilkinson (7)
14 36-2 CRAZY HORSE DANCER 126 (C,F,G,S) F Jordan 8-10-0 J Lodder
15 0-2F MEGAMUNCH 33 R Juckes 8-10-0 T Dascombe (5)

7-2 Pride Of May, 5-1 Fly By North, 6-1 Jihaad, 8-1 Pharare, 10-1 Viscount Tully, Playful Juliet, 12-1 others.

4.55 MAELOR MAIDEN CHASE
(£3,649: 2m 4f 110yd) (12)

1 -5P2 BATHWICK BOBBIE 7 (V) D Williams 9-11-7 Miss S Higgins (7)
2 PF44 CAPTAIN STOCKFORD 7 P Wegmann 9-11-7 T Eley
3 PP/0 DABALARK 10 R Lee 7-11-7 D Fortt (5)
4 6P40 DALUSMAN 25 J Birkett 8-11-7 A Manners (7)
5 0 HAMILTON TERRACE 10 K Bailey 7-11-7 T J Murphy (3)
6 3-FF KHAKI LIGHT 17 J Pickering 8-11-7 M Sharratt
7 5-3P POND HOUSE 58 (BF) M Pipe 7-11-7 L Wyer
8 -3U2 SEYMOUR SPY 15 Mrs A Hewitt 7-11-7 R Farrant
9 0-U SWEET BUCK 10 R Pugh 7-11-7 V Slattery
10 P- THE TOYMAN 336 G Richards 7-11-7 A Dobbin
11 2-3F THREE SAINTS 16 (BF) T Forster 7-11-7 S Wynne
12 FU32 EXPLORE MONDIAL 16 T Dyer 5-10-12 B Storey

9-4 Three Saints, 4-1 Seymour Spy, 5-1 Pond House, 6-1 Bathwick Bobbie, 8-1 Hamilton Terrace, Explore Mondial, 14-1 The Toyman, 20-1 others

5.25 LEVY BOARD MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,739: 2m 1f) (18)

1 6 BLAZING DOVE 149 R Price 5-11-10 Guy Lewis (3)
2 05 JILLS JOY 21 J Norton 5-11-10 E Callaghan (5)
3 06 JOE'S BIRTHDAY 19 P Webber 6-11-10 Mr P Scott (7)
4 0 NORTHERN STAR 10 J Pickering 5-11-10 Miss J Wormall (7)
5 0-05 SUPREME NORMAN 10 J Pickering 6-11-10 T Dascombe (5)
6 0/0 CARLINGFORD LASS 25 F Jordan 6-11-5 Mr G Shenkin (7)
7 0 CAROLINES PRINCESS 12 S Coathup 5-11-5 Mark Brown (7)
8 2 DOLCE NOTTE 21 M Pipe 6-11-5 O Burrows (7)
9 KONVEKTA QUEEN O Sherwood 5-11-5 Mr A Harvey
10 LITTLE WITKOWSKI C Cowley 6-11-5 B Harding (3)
11 RUTH'S SURPRISE T Dyer 6-11-5 F Leahy (3)
12 0 SCALLY'S SECRET 19 J Peacock 5-11-5 Philip Hughes (7)
13 ZOJILA W Jenks 5-11-5 DOUBTFUL
14 0 INSIDOUXBORDINATE 35 R Juckes 4-11-2 D Fortt (5)
15 0 LOTHIAN COMMANDER 63 D McCain 4-11-2 D Walsh (5)
16 0 REGAL BLUFF 24 J McConnochie 4-11-2 A Procter
17 02 THE BREWER 19 D Jones 4-11-2 N Horrocks (7)
18 0 BLUE HAVANA 21 G Roe 4-10-11 Shaun Graham (7)

7-4 Dolce Notte, 3-1 Konvekta Queen, 8-1 The Brewer, 10-1 Insidouxbordinate, 12-1 Blazing Dove, 14-1 Joe's Birthday, 16-1 Lothian Commander, 25-1 others

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bangor: 2.40 Beau Quest. 3.10 Mudahim. 4.20 Jihaad. 4.55 Bathwick Bobbie. Lingfield Park: 2.25 Belacqua, Further Future, Margi Boo. 2.55 Casino Chip. Newbury: 2.00 Ceridwen

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
2.25 Shanoora. 2.55 Mattimeo. 3.30 The Institute Boy. 4.00 Golden Touch. 4.35 Domoor. 5.10 So Intrepid.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.00 Herr Trigger.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.25 CAMDEN ROAD SELLING HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,259: 1m 4f) (7 runners)

1 6520 SUPAROY 26 T Mills 9-7 W Ryan 2
2 0-05 SHANOORA 37 (V,G) Mrs N Macauley 9-3 Amanda Sanders (5) 7
3 0-40 FURTHER FUTURE 14 (B) John Berry 9-2 M Fenton 5
4 0-03 LATZIO 23 B Pearce 8-7 W Hollick 1
5 -580 MARGI BOO 14 (V) R Juckes 8-6 F Lynch (5) 4
6 000- DRIFTHOLME 140 G L Moore 7-13 N Adams 3
7 600 BELACQUA 29 (B) D Chapman 7-10 Darren Moffatt (3) 6

11-4 Suparoy, 7-2 Latzio, 4-1 Shanoora, 9-2 Further Future, 5-1 others

2.55 SAINT PIERS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,643: 1m) (8)

1 45-2 BE SATISFIED 32 A Moore 9-0 M Fenton 5
2 00- CASINO CHIP 136 (B) T Clement 9-0 M Tebbutt 4
3 320- CHERRY GARDEN 191 T Naughton 9-0 T Ashley (7) 1
4 50- COOL FIRE 241 S Woods 9-0 W Ryan 2
5 46- DANICO 229 S Williams 9-0 S Drowne (3) 8
6 5-2 MATTIMEO 23 A Jarvis 9-0 J Tate 6
7 00- SAFECRACKER 191 J Hills 9-0 M Henry (5) 7
8 00-6 SPIRAL FLYER 21 M Usher 8-9 M Wigham 3

2-1 Mattimeo, 3-1 Cherry Garden, 7-2 Be Satisfied, 5-1 Safecracker, 8-1 Danico, 10-1 Cool Fire, 12-1 others

3.30 VINES OF SEVENOAKS BMW HANDICAP
(£3,695: 6f) (10)

1 0342 LORD SKY 8 (D,BF,F,G,S) A Bailey 5-9-10 Angela Gallimore (7) 1
2 2626 INVOCATION 21 (CD,F,G) A Moore 9-9-10 M Fenton 5
3 000- NAPOLEON STAR 168 (D,F) M Saunders 5-9-8 N Adams 9
4 3121 OUR SHADEE 9 (C,CD,F,G) K Ivory 6-9-7 C Scally (7) 4
5 500- LITTLE SABOTEUR 119 (C,F,G,S) P Makin 7-9-3 W Ryan 10
6 1324 THE INSTITUTE BOY 23 (CD,G) Miss J Craze 6-9-2 A McGlone 2
7 0163 RANDOM 25 (CD,G) C James 5-8-10 C Rutter 6
8 030- BEENY 113 (C,G) A Jarvis 3-8-8 J Tate 8
9 3516 NEWINGTON BUTTS 17 (E,CD,G) K McAuliffe 6-8-5 G Duffield 7
10 -004 CHIEF'S LADY 9 J Bradley 4-8-2 L Charnock 3

4-1 Lord Sky, 5-1 The Institute Boy, Our Shadee, 7-1 Newington Butts, Invocation, 8-1 Napoleon Star, Random, 10-1 others

4.00 BLACKBERRY LANE HANDICAP
(£3,629: 1m 2f) (9)

1 4025 KOMREYEV DANCER 45 (G) A Bailey 4-10-0 Angela Gallimore (7) 2
2 3356 SOUTH EASTERN FRED 9 (CD,F,G) H Collingridge 5-9-13 V Smith 6
3 114- HERR TRIGGER 209 (B,C,D,F,G) J Scargill 5-9-9 M Fenton 7
4 3321 MR NEVERMIND 9 (C,F,G) G L Moore 6-9-7 F Lynch (5) 4
5 1303 ROBELLION 9 (V,CD,F,G) D Arbuthnot 5-9-3 S Whitworth 9
6 516- WILD PALM 172 (S) W O'Gorman 4-9-2 Emma O'Gorman 3
7 51-0 RENOWN 80 (CD,G) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-1 M Henry (5) 5
8 5022 GOLDEN TOUCH 7 (BF) N Callaghan 4-8-4 P McCabe (3) 1
9 0-20 FRENCH GINGER 9 R Ingram 5-8-3 G Duffield 8

3-1 Mr Nevermind, 9-2 Herr Trigger, 5-1 Golden Touch, 6-1 Komreyev Dancer, Renown, 7-1 Wild Palm, 8-1 Robellion, 10-1 others

4.35 LINCOLNS MEAD HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,016: 1m) (7)

1 -631 LADY DIGNITY 21 (D,G) P Makin 9-7 W Ryan 2
2 2216 DOMOOR 35 (CD,G) M Johnston 9-3 T Williams 3
3 1241 ROWLANDSONS CHARM 21 (V,CD,G) G L Moore 9-0 F Lynch (5) 1
4 0-04 BEN'A'VACHEI BOY 38 J Bethell 8-12 M Fenton 4
5 -033 TAHYA 21 C Elsey 8-11 C Rutter 7
6 5332 HEVER GOLF EAGLE 21 T Naughton 8-11 G Duffield 6
7 000- SPHINX LEVELV 138 A Jarvis 7-11 N Adams 5

3-1 Ben'a'vachei Boy, 4-1 Lady Dignity, 9-2 Rowlandsons Charm, 5-1 Hever Golf Eagle, 6-1 Domoor, Tahya, 12-1 Sphinx Levelv

5.10 HARE LANE LIMITED STAKES
(£2,619: 7f) (8)

1 -310 BARBASON 23 (CD,BF,G) A Moore 4-9-8 Candy Morris 7
2 2301 FORT KNOX 9 (B,CD,F,G) R Flower 5-9-8 D Biggs 5
3 60-1 SO INTREPID 8 (F,G,S) J Bradley 6-9-6 S Drowne (3) 2
4 6006 DISTANT DYNASTY 23 (C,G,S) B Pearce 6-9-6 W Hollick 1
5 -005 THORNIWAMA 28 (B) J Bridger 5-9-3 A Daly (5) 4
6 320- AGAIN TOGETHER 163 G L Moore 3-8-2 F Lynch (5) 3
7 330- MORNING SURPRISE 177 (G) A Jarvis 3-8-2 J Tate 8
8 4325 SOCIETY GIRL 14 (D,F) C Thornton 3-8-2 G Duffield 6

9-4 So Intrepid, 11-4 Fort Knox, 4-1 Barbason, 5-1 Society Girl, 7-1 Again Together, 8-1 Morning Surprise, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Thornton, 3 winners from 6 runners, 50.0%; S Williams, 5 from 20, 25.0%; Lord Huntingdon, 39 from 177, 22.0%; K McAuliffe, 10 from 55, 18.2%; W O'Gorman, 30 from 169, 17.8%; M Johnston, 37 from 215, 17.2%

JOCKEYS: C Scally, 4 winners from 21 rides, 19.0%; W Ryan, 21 from 111, 18.9%; F Lynch, 3 from 19, 15.8%; S Whitworth, 23 from 148, 15.5%; G Duffield, 20 from 132, 15.2%; Amanda Sanders, 7 from 60, 11.7%.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Doncaster

Going: good to soft, soft in places

1.30 (5f) 1, Hit Or Miss (T Quinn, 11-4 fav), 2, Hello Dolly (8-1), 3, Rahona (6-1) 7 ran. ¾l, 5l M Channon Tote £2 60, £1 70, £3 60 DF £13.50. CSF £22.47. Bought in 4,400gns

2.05 (1m 2f 60yd) 1, Summer Spell (S Sanders, 13-2), 2, Arnhem (13-2), 3, Ledgendry Lino (20-1). Three Hills 4-5 fav 11 ran 8l, 5l R Charlton Tote £7 80, £1 70, £1 80, £4 20 DF £18 70 Trio £138 30 CSF £49 38

2.35 (7f) 1, Sorbie Tower (R Cochrane, 6-1), 2, Monsab (3-1 fav); 3, Depiction (16-1). 14 ran NR Artaxerxes, Domak Amaam 3½l, 2l, Miss G Kelleway Tote £9 30, £2 20, £1 60, £7.80 DF £11.00 Trio £442.80 CSF £25 56

3.05 (2m 2f) 1, Shadirwan (T Quinn, 10-1), 2, Noyan (10-1), 3, Blaze Away (12-1), 4, Upper Mount Clair (8-1 fav). 20 ran. NR Mizyan 5l, 5l R Akehurst Tote £16 50, £3 90, £2 90, £2.80, £2 00 DF £68 50 Trio £891 10 CSF £102.20 Tricast £1,140.96

3.40 (1m) 1, Cool Edge (P Robinson, 20-1), 2, Lynton Lad (25-1); 3, Dances With Hooves (33-1), 4, Golden Pound (25-1) Mister Fire Eyes 7-2 fav 21 ran NR Eurolink The Rebel, Samwar, Sotoboy 1¾l, 1l M Tompkins Tote £34.80; £7.10, £5.30, £5.60, £5 40. DF £215 60 Trio £4,548.30. CSF £412.92. Tricast £13,827 88.

4.10 (6f) 1, Anzio (Pat Eddery, 11-1), 2, Sycamore Lodge (10-1); 3, Montserrat (12-1), 4, Castlerea Lad (12-1) Brecongill Lad 8-1 jt-fav, 21 ran. NR For The Present 4l, nk. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £10.80, £2.90, £3 70, £1 90, £3 00 DF £48 30 Trio £523 30 CSF £114 66 Tricast £1,283 07.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £71,788.08 carried forward to Doncaster today).

Placepot: £2,814.10. Quadpot: £134 40.

Newbury

Going: good to soft, soft in places

1.50 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Welcome Call (J Osborne, 7-2 fav), 2, What's Your Story (4-1), 3, Act Of Faith (7-1) 14 ran. NR Bullens Bay, French Buck, Quarry House, Supreme Spirit 5l, 8l O Sherwood Tote £4 00 £1 40, £1 40, £2 20 DF £11 70 Trio £30.00. CSF £16 87.

2.25 (2m 1f ch) 1, Wee River (J Callaghan, 2-1), 2, Southampton (13-8 fav) 3 James The First (3-1) 4 ran 1½l, sh hd, G Moore Tote £2 10 DF £2 60. CSF £5 30

2.55 (3m 5f ch) 1, The Toseach (T J Murphy, 33-1); 2, Palosanto (5-1), 3, Fine Sir (33-1) Just 'n Ace 4-1 fav 20 ran NR General Pongo 4l, 1½l J Fanshawe Tote £80 00 £16 20, £1 70, £22 90 DF £272.90 Trio not won (pool of £772 89 carried forward to 4 05 at Newbury today) CSF £184 55

3.25 (3m ch) 1, St Mellion Fairway (R Dunwoody, 4-11 fav), 2, Dom Samourai (11-4); 3, Super Gossip (12-1) 3 ran. 5l, dist D Nicholson. Tote £1.20. DF £1.30. CSF £1 68

4.00 (2m 4f ch) 1, Around The Horn (P Hide, 7-2), 2, Nickle Joe (11-2), 3, All For Luck (11-8 fav) 4 ran NR Pashto, Wise Approach 1½l, 1½l J Gifford Tote. £3 70 DF. £6.70. CSF £16 94

4.35 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Centaur Express (T Eley, 7-1), 2, Hamilton Silk (9-4 jt-fav), 3, Richelieu (9-4 jt-fav) 6 ran NR Verde Luna. ¾l, 14l A Streeter Tote. £7.70; £2.50, £1 60. DF £4.80 CSF £21 38

Placepot £242.90. Quadpot: £65.90

Kelso

Going: good, good to soft in places

2.15 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Ralitsa (L Wyer, 100-30); 2, Crystal Gift (3-1); 3, Prince Equname (10-1) Three Wild Days 7-4 fav 11 ran 2l, 5l M Hammond Tote £4 00; £1 80, £1 50. £2 90 DF £9 00 Trio £28 30 CSF £12 90

2.45 (2m 1f ch) 1, Briar's Delight (L Wyer, 5-1), 2, Grouse-N-Heather (33-1); 3 Carthness Cloud (5-4 fav) 9 ran NR Just Molly Hd, 1l R Allen Tote £7 00; £1 40, £2 80, £1 40 DF £269 10 Trio £34 50 CSF £111 08

3.15 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Coqui Lane (D Parker, 11-2), 2, Supreme Soviet (3-1), 3, Brambleberry (9-2) Cool Luke 15-8 fav 8 ran. 1½l, 2½l J Dun Tote £9 60; £2 60, £2 00, £1 10 DF £18 00 CSF £21 50 Tricast £73 53

3.50 (3m 1f ch) 1, Emerald Storm (G Cahill, 7-2), 2, Stormy Coral (9-2), 3, Ali's Alibi (9-4 fav). 8 ran. Hd, 1½l P Monteith Tote £4 30; £1 60, £1 50, £1 30 DF £7 10 CSF £18 08 Tricast £37 68

4.20 (3m 4f ch) 1, Royal Jester (Mr C Storey, 4-5 fav), 2, Political Issue (16-1); 3, Parlebiz (10-1) 8 ran 7l 25l Mrs J Storey Tote £1.80, £1 70, £3 80, £1 10 DF £13 90 CSF £13 41

4.50 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Turkish Tower (N Bentley, 13-2), 2, Current Mony (5-1) 3, Vibrano (33-1) Shallow River 8-11 fav 10 ran 2l, 5l R Nixon Tote £10 80; £1 80, £1 70, £3 40 DF £22 90 Trio £124.80 CSF £36 15

5.20 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Master Nova (P Niven, 1-4 fav), 2, Garbo's Boy (12-1), 3, Tough Test (12-1) 10 ran ¾l, hd M Camacho Tote £2 10; £1 10, £3 40, £1 30. DF £13 70 Trio £11 30 CSF £5 85

Placepot £48.10. Quadpot £24.00.

Hereford

Going: soft

2.10 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Cassio's Boy (D Gallagher, 4-1); 2, Polly Leach (25-1), 3, Maljoor Yaloos (5-1) Steel Gem 2-1 fav 11 ran NR Bold Charlie, Pancian. 6l, 11l R Eckley Tote £5.20, £1.70, £19 20, £1 30 DF £147 80 Trio £70 80 CSF £88 88 Tricast £488 35

2.40 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Bally Clover (R Farrant, 5-2); 2, Ballydougan (16-1); 3, Majors Legacy (8-1). Knockaverry 6-4 fav 13 ran ¾l, 5l Miss V Williams Tote £3 10, £1 10, £6.10, £2 10 DF £33 40 Trio £56.00 CSF £40 61

3.10 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Ground Nut (G Supple, 9-2); 2, Rain-N-Sun (12-1); 3, Supreme Master (3-1 fav) 8 ran. Dist, 9l R Buckler Tote £5 80, £1 80, £2.20, £1 40 DF: £43 30 CSF £50 56 Tricast £173 53

3.45 (2m 1f hdle) 1, World Express (D Salter, 10-11 fav); 2, Hardy Weather (2-1); 3, Sharp Penn (16-1) 9 ran NR Aeolian, Kutan, Smart Act, Tango Man 12l, 1½l B Millman Tote £2 00; £1 30, £1.20, £6 70 DF £1 30 Trio £33.50 CSF £3 84

4.15 (2m 3f ch) 1, Allo George (D Gallagher, 13-8 fav); 2, Aedean (5-1); 3, Chertertorharowarm (7-1) 5 ran Dist, dist A Newcombe Tote £2.40; £1 30, £2 60 DF £5.30 CSF £9 15

4.45 (2m 1f flat race) 1, Carry The Card (D Gallagher, 3-1); 2, Ganpati (13-2); 3, Kentford Tina (11-4 fav). 9 ran NR Carlingford Lass, Dingle Wood, Not Guilty, Scoundrel 1l 1l S Christian Tote £3 60; £1 30, £3 30, £1 10 DF. £30 00 Trio £30 70. CSF. £21 01. Bay Fair (12-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduct 5p in pound

5.15 (2m 1f flat race) 1, Johnny-K (R Massey, 5-4 fav), 2, Hits Gamble (12-1); 3, Fred Fuggles (7-1) 11 ran. NR Greenhill Surprise, Loch Na Keal, Welsh Silk 9l, 13l D Nicholson. Tote. £1 80; £1 50, £1 70, £1 80 DF. £11.50. Trio. £11.40 CSF. £19.25.

Placepot £18.20. Quadpot: £3.60.

Smith record books ticket to Olympics

BY CRAIG LORD

GRAEME SMITH, who celebrates his twentieth birthday next week, yesterday became the first Briton to break the eight-minute barrier for 800 metres freestyle on his way to a British record in the 1,500 metres and a place in the Great Britain team for the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

His times, of 7min 59.48sec at 800 metres and 15min 03.43sec at the full distance, are the fastest in the world this year and a tribute to Dave Calleja, the Stockport coach. Both men are aware, however, that the British Olympic trials at Ponds Forge in Sheffield, which end tomorrow, are only the second national trials, behind the United States, among leading swimming nations. The crucial times will come from Australia and Germany next month.

For now, Smith can enjoy a few weeks in the sun after defeating in devastating fashion Paul Palmer, 21, and Ian Wilson, 25, the man whose records he broke. Palmer, with 15min 18.60sec, will compete alongside Smith in Atlanta, but Wilson fell foul not only of the two-per-event limit, but the qualifying standard. His 15min 32.95sec showed he was was far from the form that saw him win a silver medal at the European championships in 1991 before suffering chronic fatigue syndrome in 1993.

Wilson recovered to take the silver medal at the world short-course championships in December. However, the pace proved too much yesterday as Smith set out as he intended to continue, never surrendering the lead and always inside record pace.

"I thought I'd have to get out fast and set a British record, get under 15 minutes, just to make the team," Smith said. Only six swimmers had broken that barrier. Smith may have to do that to win a medal at Atlanta.

While Palmer revealed as one of the secrets of his success a metronomic speed-setting device that he conceals under his cap in training, Smith, born in Falkirk and raised in Stockport, said "hard work" explained his pace.

He also revealed that he takes creotine, a substance that increases muscle mass — "I've put a stone on in the past year," said a lean Smith — and he eats three times as much as the national average daily intake to help him swim more than 80km in training each week.

Neither Mark Foster nor Sarah Hardcastle were overly happy with their performances yesterday, though both qualified comfortably in events for which they will be outside medal hopes in Atlanta, respectively the 50m (22.74sec) and 800m freestyle (8min 38.27sec).

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Saturday portrait: Gary McAllister, by Kevin McCarra

Smooth operator who brings refinement to club and country

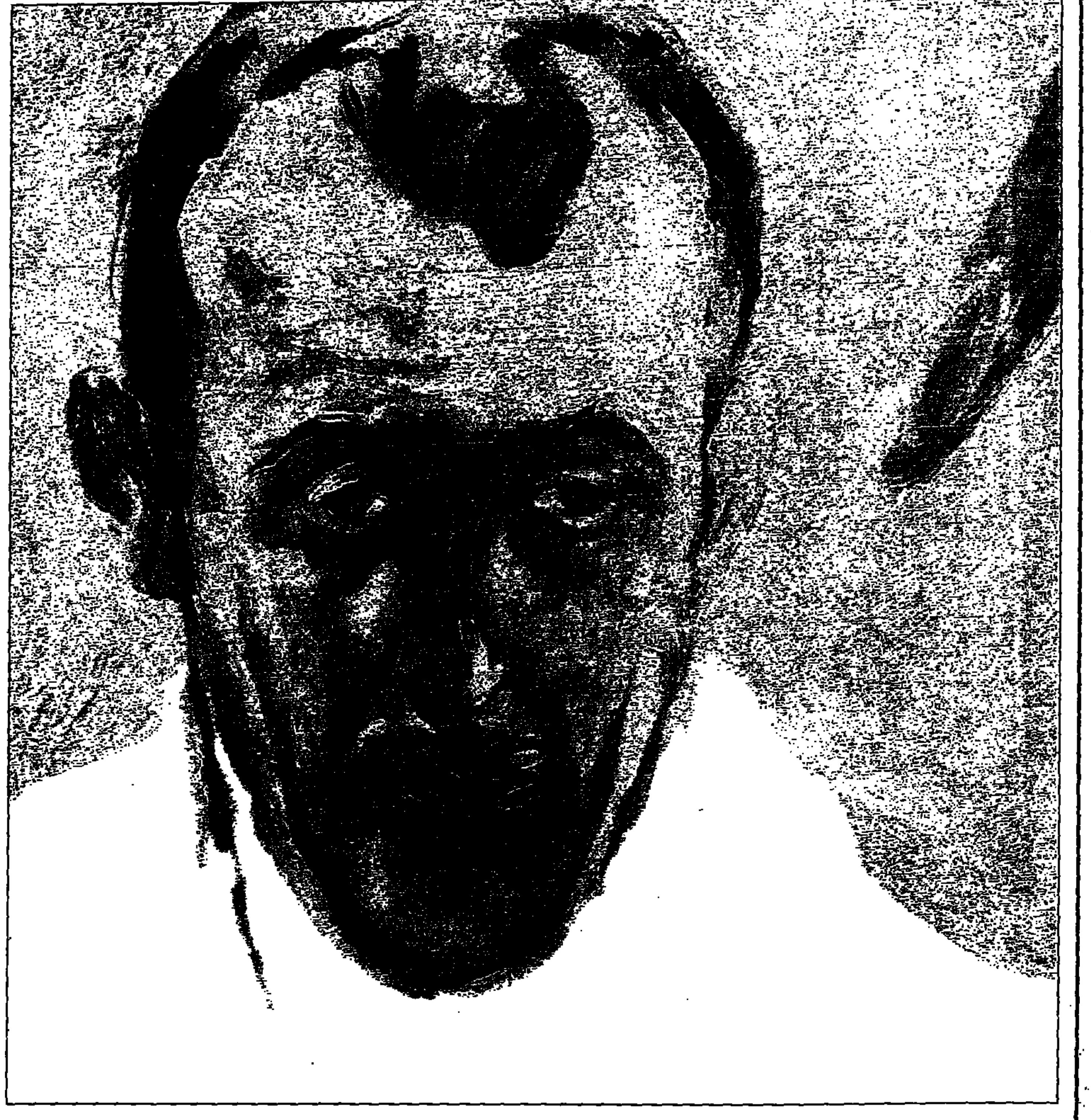


ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

Going home is an exercise in time travel. When Gary McAllister, the captain of Leeds United and his country, returns to Scotland for an international match, the boyhood friends who ring up for tickets often refer to him as "wee man". The term hurls the six-footer back to his runty teenage years, before full-time training stretched his frame.

The story of McAllister, who will direct Leeds's performance in the Coca-Cola Cup final against Aston Villa tomorrow, has been all about growth. "Gary will retire satisfied," Gordon Strachan, his predecessor as captain at Elland Road, said, "because he'll know he has got as much out of himself as he possibly could. He's never been happy to stay just as he is."

That striving is concealed by McAllister's style. Despite possessing the modern virtues of stamina and diligence, which can see him hurry an opponent into error, McAllister still looks like a throwback to an era when the game prized elegance. Head up and straight-backed, he may loft a precise long ball or clip the through-pass an instant before the gap in a defence closes.

His talent, though, initially went unpestered and there were no scouts badgering for his signature as a boy. The Scotland youth caps went to others, who would mostly fail in football, while McAllister came closer to international recognition, in those years, as a golfer. All the same, there was some smoothness in the process that took a Lanarkshire lad onto the books of the local club, Motherwell.

There, McAllister's height grew before his strength did and it sounds as if he was one of those teenagers permanently in need of a wall to lean on. Soon enough, however, he was helping to prop up Motherwell, for there are always fine job prospects at a struggling club. Others could see that he did not belong in the midst of such toil.

His manager at Motherwell, Tommy McLean, flinches at the very idea of praise, yet McAllister drew from him, in 1985, a eulogy that made comparisons, in potential, with Graeme Souness. The parallels seem shaky now, particularly since the Leeds captain has never shown the calibrated aggression of the Liverpool man, but some elements of the analogy still stand.

Like Souness, there is a self-sufficiency about McAllister. "He likes to be one of the boys, and yet he's not one of the boys," Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, said of his captain. Perhaps it is the slight distance from the rest of the group that makes others follow him. He led his country for the first time in 1993, with Brown's faith in him so emphatic that a celebrated home-based player, Paul McStay, of Celtic, had the job taken from him.

Independence and its responsibilities were inherited early by McAllister. His mother died when he was eight and, with his father at work, taking care of the house and looking after his younger brother, Craig, became routine duties. The habit of coping was established and a move to Leicester City in 1985, for £150,000, carried no risk of homesickness. McAllister, at 20, was ready to pursue his trade and the surroundings were incidental.

> 'You can imagine him having a mobile phone with him when he is on the pitch'

Filbert Street, however, proved a fortunate destination, particularly once David Pleat became manager there and improved McAllister's understanding of the where and when of midfield play. Footballers are famous for fending off advice, but he is greedy for knowledge.

"Gary is even better now than he was when Leeds won the title in 1992," Strachan said, "because he has the capacity to keep on taking in more information about the game. He'll jump at any opportunity to learn and we even used to go and watch the youth matches together."

Nonetheless, humility has never led McAllister to miscalculate his own value. When the moment came, in 1990, to leave Leicester, it was thought that he would sign for Nottingham Forest and the player himself was party to the presumption. A deal was in place, until the meeting that was supposed to clinch it.

The audience with Brian Clough, then the Forest manager, seemed to peeve both men. In his own account, McAllister says he was given a lengthy inventory of his failings as a player, although these were graciously to be overlooked, since he could at least pass the ball. Whether this was candour or an attempt to establish dominance, it only antagonised the Scot.

McAllister was then troubled by Clough's behaviour when the manager began to harangue a waiter who was making too much noise in gathering some spoons onto a tray. The following day, the transfer to the City Ground was declined. In this case, one can only conclude, player had interviewed manager and rejected his application.

Six years ago, it was unusual for footballers to exercise power, and probably unprecedented for a man, at 25, to reject the invitation finally to join a leading club. It is such self-possession that leads Brown to view McAllister as a young executive: "You can imagine him having a mobile phone with him on the pitch."

In 1990, he answered Howard Wilkinson's call, agreeing to move to Elland Road in a £1 million deal. There, at least, an accord with the manager was easily reached and, two years later, Leeds won the old first division title, edging past Manchester United in the final days of the season. The principal strength of the team lay in midfield, where McAllister worked with Strachan, David Batty and the then-precocious Gary Speed.

For McAllister, at least, progress at Elland Road has been fairly steady, and he went on to take over the captaincy from Strachan. It is not a titular position. "There is more involved in that job at Leeds than at other clubs," Strachan said. "Howard allows you a little closer to him and you act as a go-between. Whether you're relaying some problem a player has or organising a rota for hospital visits, it's a full-time job."

McAllister appears at ease with his many roles. The thinning hair and those features marked by thoughtfulness only add to the impression of maturity. On occasions when events slip beyond his control, the effect is, in his case, particularly outlandish. His chagrin at breaking an arm on the eve of his marriage, to Denise, in 1993 and sporting a plaster cast at the wedding was considerable.

Little else has gone wrong for McAllister. The gradual development of his career brought him to prominence a little too late to permit the move to Italian football he would love to have made. His measured progress in football, however, seems to imply longevity and his contract with Leeds lasts until 1999. The club is thought to have brushed aside inquiries for him from Rangers and, this season, Arsenal.

The content of his future at Elland Road, however, is particularly hard to discern. Since the title was won in 1992, English football has changed, but Leeds have not. Or, at least, not sufficiently. Before the FA Cup quarter-final replay against Liverpool at Anfield on Wednesday, Wilkinson said he did not want to see his side congratulated for attractive play in a defeat.

Leeds lost 3-0 anyway, and received no praise at all. The problem with their utilitarian style is that it is not utilitarian at all. It does not work these days. If the club, no matter the result tomorrow, is to evolve, however, McAllister's refined presence will be crucial. On meeting him in 1990, Clough looked at the player's cowboy boots and asked if he was related to John Wayne. Well, there is no holster and no drawl, but McAllister, too, can champion a cause.

THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL v NEWCASTLE

Undignified scenes at Highbury the last time these teams met, in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finals in January, with Bruce Rioch and Terry McDermott indulging in handbags at ten paces after Ginola had been sent off. Rioch has pledged he will be a good boy today, when the Premiership leaders return, and it is hoped that the players keep their heads, too, with so much at stake. Arsenal continue their quest for Europe, still without Adams, while Newcastle attempt to put daylight between themselves and Manchester United.

How they line up

ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, L Dixon, A Linighan, M Keown, S Marshall, N Winterburn, P Merson, D Platt, D Bergkamp, J Hartson, I Wright, R Parlour, G Helder, M Rose.

NEWCASTLE (from): P Smicek, W Barton, S Watson, J Beresford, S Howey, P Albert, R Lee, D Batty, P Beardsley, D Ginola, L Ferdinand, F Asprilla, D Peacock, K Gillespie, L Clark, R Elliott.

BOLTON v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Wednesday have just about eased their fears of relegation, with successive victories over Aston Villa and Southampton. Another win this afternoon should retain their Premiership status, although Blinker is doubtful — not with an eye injury but a groin strain. Bolton boldly battle on, with Stubbs, the defender, having scored three goals in the last two matches. Had his colleagues up front shown such prowess throughout the season, perhaps Wanderers would not be in such a predicament. A game best watched on *Ceefax*.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
10-YEAR RECORD: No fixtures.

How they line up

BOLTON (from): A Davison, G Bergsson, J Phillips, S Curcic, S Coleman, C Fairclough, S Sellars, S Green, A Stubbs, N Blake, M Paatelainen, F de Freitas, J McGinlay, A Thompson, D Lee, B Small.

SHEFF WED (from): C Woods, S Nicol, L Briscoe, J Newsome, D Walker, R Blinker, J Sheridan, M Degryse, M Pembridge, G Whittingham, D Hirst, D Kovacevic, K Pressman, P Atherton.

CHELSEA v QUEENS PARK RANGERS

It has got to a sad stage when clubs start a tug of war over Mark Hateley, 34, the once England international striker, once Glasgow Rangers superstar and now London Rangers reject — well, almost. Terry Fenwick, of Portsmouth, says he wants to buy Hateley if he can raise the money; Ray Wilkins, of Loftus Road, says he is not leaving, even though he and Hateley have not exactly seen eye to eye recently. Another sorry saga as Rangers go down the tubes, the visit to Stamford Bridge today probably rubberstamping their demise.

LAST SEASON: Chelsea 1 QPR 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 3-1, 1-1, —, 1-1, 2-0, 2-1, 1-0, 2-0, 1-0.

How they line up

CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, S Clarke, M Duberry, D Petrescu, T Phelan, R Gullit, D Wise, C Burley, D Lee, J Spencer, M Hughes, E Johnsen, G Peacock, P Furlong.

QPR (from): J Sommer, D Bardsley, R Brevett, A McDonald, K Ready, D Maddix, S Barker, G Goodridge, A Impey, T Sinclair, K Gallen, M Hateley, D Dichio, A Roberts, S Yates, M Brazier, C Plummer.

EVERTON v WIMBLEDON

Hottiger, of Everton, has returned from a trip to his native Switzerland, where he got married, while Holdsworth, of Wimbledon, is also back in contention after the less exciting diversion of days on the treatment table recovering from an ankle injury. How the Crazy Gang could have done with him in their FA Cup defeat by Chelsea, and how they could do with him scoring a few more this season, even if Sam Hammam, his chairman, has not yet produced the Ferrari he promised if Holdsworth reached 15 goals. Pay up, Sam.

LAST SEASON: Everton 0 Wimbledon 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, 3-0, 2-2, 1-1, 1-1, 1-2, 2-0, 0-0, 3-2, 0-0.

How they line up

EVERTON (from): N Southall, M Hottiger, D Watson, C Short, A Hinchcliffe, A Kanchelskis, B Horne, J Ebbrell, A Limpar, G Stuart, D Ferguson, D Amokachi, P Rideout, G Allen, A Grant.

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, C Perry, A Thorn, D Blackwell, R Earle, O Leonhardsen, V Jones, J Goodman, D Holdsworth, J Euell, E Ekoku, M Harford, M Gayle, S Castledine.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v LIVERPOOL

Forest got burnt, badly, in midweek, with Bayern Munich absorbing initial pressure and then bouncing back with five goals. A rather ignominious way to exit from the Uefa Cup quarter-finals, prompting all the usual anguish about the state of English football compared to those brilliant Johnny Foreigners who always win, never lose, and are, to a man, magnificently gifted. What would have been said if Forest had nicked an early goal and hung on? Liverpool, those brilliant Johnny Englishmen, visit the City Ground today.

LAST SEASON: Nottingham Forest 1 Liverpool 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 1-1, 2-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-1, 1-1, 1-0, —, 1-1.

How they line up

NOTTM FOREST (from): M Crossley, D Little, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, C Bart-Williams, S Stone, D Phillips, S Gemmill, B Roy, K Campbell, I Woan, J Lee, A Silenzi, P McGregor, C Allen, S Howe.

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, J McAteer, J Scales, N Ruddock, M Wright, R Jones, D Matteo, M Kennedy, S McManaman, J Barnes, J Redknapp, M Thomas, R Fowler, S Collymore, I Rush, A Warner.

WEST HAM v MANCHESTER CITY

Harry Redknapp, of West Ham, and Alan Ball, of City, like their Johnny Foreigners, too, with Mikhail Kavelashvili, from sweet Georgia, likely to be the next imported signing at Maine Road. Kavelashvili's previous experience of these shores was when he found himself under a boot belonging to Vinnie Jones, the Wales and Wimbledon marauder, at the National Stadium in Cardiff last June. Mikhail was rather miffed at being used as a doormat, the referee was not amused, either, and Jones was sent off. Oh, happy days.

LAST SEASON: West Ham 3 Manchester City 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 2-0, —, —, —, —, 1-2, —, 3-1, 3-0.

How they line up

WEST HAM (from): L Miklosko, T Breacker, J Dicks, S Potts, S Bilic, I Bishop, M Rieper, M Hughes, I Dumitrescu, K Rowland, I Dowie, D Williamson, J Moncur, A Martin, P Shilton, A Whitbread, L Sealey.

MAN CITY (from): E Immel, M Frontzeck, S Lomas, K Curle, G Kinkladze, I Brightwell, K Symons, N Summerbee, N Clough, U Rösler, M Brown, N Quinn, S Hiley, G Mazzarelli, A Kernaghan, M Margetson.

TOMORROW

MANCHESTER UNITED v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Wot no Cole? Alex Ferguson has finally lost patience with Andy Cole, who cost £7 million when Kevin Keegan stunned the Geordie hordes and let him go last season. Ever been had, Alex? Paul Scholes hardly gets a look-in at Old Trafford these days, despite 13 goals, but is likely to send Cole scuttling back on to the substitutes' bench. Must-win scenario for United; they cannot allow Newcastle to get too far ahead again. Must-at-least-not-lose situation for Tottenham, if they hope to play in Europe next season.

LAST SEASON: Manchester Utd 0 Tottenham 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 0-0, 1-1, 1-0, 1-0, 0-1, 1-1, 3-1, 4-1, 2-1, 0-0.

How they line up

MAN UTD (from): P Schmeichel, A Coton, D Irwin, P Neville, G Neville, D May, S Bruce, L Sharpe, R Keane, R Giggs, A Cole, P Scholes, E Cantona, D Beckham, N Butt, B McClair.

TOTTENHAM (from): I Walker, D Austin, J Edinburgh, C Wilson, R Fox, G Mabbutt, A Sinton, E Sheringham, C Armstrong, S Nethercott, R Rosenthal, S Slade, J Cundy, C Day, D Howells.

TOMORROW

ASTON VILLA v LEEDS UNITED

Leeds United's efforts at beating Liverpool in the FA Cup quarter-finals must rank as one of the more pathetic attempts in the history of the competition. A cautious approach at Elland Road, followed by a cautious approach at Anfield for the replay, does not exactly add up to the most imaginative game plan. Just what does Howard Wilkinson have up his sleeve for Wembley tomorrow? "OK, lads, I've got it. We're going to bore Villa into submission. It's so fiendish, it's brilliant." Villa, if they can stay awake, should comfortably take the trophy, with Yorke further enhancing his reputation as one of the most complete strikers in the country.

How they line up

ASTON VILLA (probable): M Bosnich, G Charles, A Wright, U Ehiogu, P McGrath, G Southgate, I Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, S Milosevic, D Yorke. Substitutes: To be announced.

LEEDS UTD (probable): J Lukic, G Kelly, N Worthington or A Dorigo, J Pemberton, D Wetherall, L Radebe, C Palmer, G McAllister, G Speed, B Deane, A Yeboah. Substitutes: To be announced.

SEMI-FINALS

v Arsenal. First leg (a) 2-2. Second leg (h) 0-0. Agg 2-2. Aston Villa win on away goals	v Birmingham City. First leg (a) 2-1. Second leg (h) 3-0. Leeds win 5-1 on agg

FIFTH ROUND

v Wolverhampton (h) 1-0	v Reading (h) 2-1

FOURTH ROUND

v Queens Park Rangers (h) 1-0	v Blackburn Rovers (h) 2-1

THIRD ROUND

v Stockport County (h) 2-0	v Derby County (a) 1-0

SECOND ROUND

v Peterborough United. First leg (h) 6-0. Second leg (a) 1-1. Aston Villa win 7-1 on agg	v Notts County. First leg (h) 0-0. Second leg (a) 3-2. Leeds win 3-2 on agg

HOW THEY STAND

		P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1	Newcastle	29	64	+29	WLDLW
2	Manchester Utd	31	64	+28	WWWDW
3	Liverpool	30	59	+34	WWWDW
4	Aston Villa	32	56	+16	LWWLD
5	Arsenal	31	51	+14	WDWWL
6	Tottenham	30	51	+10	LWWLW
7	Everton	31	48	+14	LWWDD
8	Blackburn	31	48	+11	LLDWW
9	Chelsea	31	44	+2	LWDDL
10	Nottm Forest	29	44	-1	LLLWD
11	West Ham	31	42	-7	WLDWL
12	Leeds	29	39	-7	LLWLD
13	Middlesbrough	32	36	-13	DLLDD
14	Sheffield Wed	31	35	-7	LLLWW
15	Manchester City	31	30	-21	DDLDW
16	Coventry	30	27	-18	WDDDL
17	Wimbledon	30	27	-19	LDDDL
18	Southampton	29	25	-15	DLLLL
19	QPR	31	23	-22	WDLLD
20	Bolton	31	22	-28	WLWWL

MONDAY

SOUTHAMPTON v COVENTRY

This game is big, seriously big. Had the clubs not been where they are in the Premiership, nobody would have given a monkeys. However, when the Endsleigh league beckons, the stakes become massive. Southampton's remaining games in hand have to be used wisely, otherwise they could be south-coast scrapping with Portsmouth next season, while Coventry supporters will be delighted to know that Ron Atkinson lies 16,092nd in one of the largest fantasy football leagues. He's not too hot in reality, either.

LAST SEASON: Southampton 0 Coventry 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 2-0, 1-2, 2-2, 3-0, 2-1, 0-0, 2-2, 1-0, 0-0.

How they line up

SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, J Dodd, R Hall, K Monkou, A Neilson, S Charlton, M Le Tissier, J Magilton, N Maddison, M Oakley, M Watson, P Tisdale, D Hughes, G Watson, N Shipperley, B Grobbelaar.

COVENTRY (from): S Ogrizovic, B Borrows, D Busst, L Daish, R Shaw, D Burrows, P Telfer, P Ndlovu, P Williams, E Jess, J Salako, D Dublin, P Whelan, A Pickering, N Lamptey, J Filan.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.30pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Tomorrow

12.00 noon Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

4.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday: Manchester United v Tottenham (live)

5.00pm ITV Coca-Cola Cup final Aston Villa v Leeds United (live)

Monday

7.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday Night Football: Southampton v Coventry (live)

Compiled by Russell Kempson, Julian Desborough

هكذا من الأصل

Nightmare for Cousins as Eldredge glides to gold medal

FROM JOHN HENNESSY
IN EDMONTON

FOR Todd Eldredge, of the United States, it was an evening of triumph and euphoria, for Steven Cousins, of Britain, a nightmare experience which will stay with him for a long time.

Eldredge won the free skating section of the ice skating world championships and with it the gold medal. Cousins, disaster following upon disaster until his presence on the ice was nothing short of an embarrassment, plunged to eighteenth place in the final and to fifteenth place overall, after having secured fifth place in the short programme on Wednesday.

"Steven's in a state of shock," Doug Leigh, his Canadian coach, said, "and I'd appreciate it if you'd give him some space." (Not that we had any intention of intruding upon private grief.)

Calamity came early. Cousins fell heavily on his opening jump, a triple axel. That could happen to anyone, but after a triple salchow, there followed a double lutz rather than a triple, a fall on the triple flip, not even a double axel, only a double loop ... but why go on? There was a second triple towards the end, but by then eyes were on the clock, willing it round to 4min 30sec.

Leigh could not explain what had gone wrong. "I wish I had a crystal ball," he said. "Steven can normally do that programme in his sleep, but something just shut down."

By contrast, the Britain No 2, Neil Wilson, at 17 six years Cousins's junior, opened the evening with a programme of elegant lines, clean edges, stunning spins and four triple jumps, all perfectly attuned to the music of Chopin and Meyerbeer.

Cousins's failure means that Britain will be allowed only one entry next year, so there are the makings of a fascinating confrontation between the two at the British championships next season.

Eldredge, 24, owed his success over Ilia Kulik, the overnight leader, to his superior jumping skills, for he has not the ice presence of the 18-year-old Russian.

Otherwise, the evening belonged to the local hero, Elvis Stojko, winner of the title in 1994 and last year, and another member of Leigh's stable. A fall had left him in seventh place after the short programme and with little hope of any sort of medal.

In the final, though, he had 17,000 spectators in the Edmonton Coliseum in ecstasy with a performance which lifted him into fourth place.

Coca-Cola Cup final provides stage for Villa forward to win over the doubters

Milosevic glimpses chance to strike back

Russell Kempson says the target of a crowd's gibes aims to come up smiling

At Villa Park, half an hour before kick-off, the goalposts are moved a few feet sideways. It is a simple ploy to protect the pitch, as the teams warm up, but it still temporarily bewildered the quizzical onlooker. "I suppose that's for Savo," he said, eventually, his voice laced with sarcasm. His friends laughed, immediately grasping the joke.

It is a constant theme this season. Is Savo Milosevic, the Aston Villa forward, no more than a costly mistake? A £3.5 million summer signing, from Partizan Belgrade, who could not hit a barn door at ten paces. Or is the amiable Serb settling in steadily and promising riches for the future? All left foot, perhaps, but plenty of scope for refinement and improvement.

At Wembley tomorrow, when Villa take on Leeds United in the Coca-Cola Cup final, he will attempt to silence his most voluble critics. Those who mock his hunched, lumbering style: those who jeer when his 6ft 1in, 13st 4lb frame tumbles too frequently in the opposition penalty area; and those who wonder why he appears to be loathing every minute of it.

"The young man obviously has ability," Brian Clough said, when questioned about Milosevic's initial impact in England. "You only have to look at some of the neat things he does to realise that." Praise indeed. Old Big 'Ead can be the most scathing of judges.

Typically, though, the sting is not far away. "He doesn't give the impression of someone who is playing with confidence," Clough continued. "You can tell that from his body language. If an opponent takes the ball off him, or a decision goes against him, his shoulders drop — and so does his head.

"It wouldn't do him any harm to smile a bit more. If he did that, instead of looking so forlorn, he would start to enjoy his football more. At least it would give a more positive impression and help him psychologically."

At home in Byeljina, near Belgrade, Milosevic, 22, had little to smile about. Though he amassed 79 goals for Partizan in three seasons, and has scored four times for Yugoslavia in seven appearances, the war was never far away. "It was difficult," he said. "Someone can just pick up a rifle and that's it. It's nice to be away."

> 'It was a big change for him, the culture and the football'

Nice, but, at first, strange. He spoke little English, relied on an interpreter and was holed up in a hotel. The delights of Birmingham and the FA Carling Premiership were passing him by, swiftly, and his promise of a 25-goal season began to look embarrassingly empty. "It was a big change for him, the culture and the football," Gareth Southgate, his Villa team-mate, said.

"We played a pre-season friendly against West Bromwich Albion and they kicked him to pieces. They decided they were going to show this young foreign lad what it was all about and they did. It was a tough welcome, the short, sharp, shock treatment.

"He has done well, though. He is getting used to the pace, he is adjusting and has got a good touch for a big man. Maybe he tries too hard sometimes, and hangs on to the ball too long, but you can see the confidence ooze through him when he scores a goal."

Sasa Curcic, the Bolton Wanderers midfield player and a former colleague of Milosevic at Partizan, is equally upbeat. "It's not been easy for him, in one of the strongest leagues in Europe, but I believe he and Dwight Yorke will become the best striking partnership in the Premiership," he said. "Savo's almost impossible to mark, like Alan Shearer. He was very good business for Villa."

After eight months, 41 matches and 12 goals, Milosevic is feeling more acclimatised. He and his girlfriend, Vesna, a model, have moved into a house in Sutton Coldfield, he speaks passable English and the translator has disappeared. And he now smiles, often. His brother, Miso, 21, is travelling from Belgrade to watch him tomorrow.

"I'm very excited," Milosevic said. "It is difficult to explain but it is like a dream. I never expected this when I came here and every game is still an experience for me. I've learnt a lot, from Dwight and all the players, and I feel I'm settling in at last.

"I'm a little disappointed with my goalscoring but 12 is good for now. The English game is so much harder. I'm quite pleased with my general play but I know I can do better. The supporters have been great and it would be nice to score the winning goal at Wembley, yes?" Moving the goalposts may not be necessary after all.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Milosevic, whose return of 12 goals since joining Aston Villa has failed to convince supporters of his worth

Hyde seeking to turf out Trophy rivals

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

HYDE United approach the task of tackling Stevenage Borough, the Vauxhall Conference leaders, in the quarter-finals of the FA Umbro Trophy today at Ewen Fields, in impressive form of their own and snapping at the heels of Bamber Bridge, the long-time UniBond League leaders.

As with Stevenage and their hopes of a place in the Endsleigh Insurance League, so winning the title will not put Hyde in the running for promotion to the Conference. Steve Hartley, the Hyde chairman, said: "We can't go up at the moment because the distance from the perimeter fence to the pitch is about 1½ metres short on either side and we've got a minimum-width pitch.

"To make the extra space we will have to move back into a schoolyard, take back terracing and floodlights, and relay and relevel the pitch. The plans are in and we've applied to the Football Trust for a grant. As it is for essential safety work, we hope it will be successful."

The work will follow the operation last summer that brought the end to ten years of using an artificial pitch. Hartley said: "Our record at home, where we've lost only once, puts the lie to taunts that we were only a 'plastic team'."

Under Mike McKenzie, appointed manager before the start of last season, Hyde have, Hartley said, "played 11 or 12 games against Conference clubs and lost only twice". One of those defeats was in the Trophy semi-finals last season, when they lost the first leg 2-0 away to Kidderminster Harriers and were unable to overhaul them, despite a 1-0 home win.

Three weeks ago, Hyde sold Colin Little to Crewe Alexandra for £50,000, but still have in Ged Kimmins, recently capped by the England semi-professional side, a forward with 27 goals to his credit. Arthur Williams, twice goalkeeper for losing Runcorn sides at Wembley, Billy Garton and Gus Wilson add a solid core of experience.

A 2,000 all-ticket crowd will be at the Moat Ground to see if Gresley Rovers can overcome Macclesfield Town. A 1-0 Beazer Homes League win over Gloucester City, who were under the guidance of Leroy Rosenoir as player-manager after the acrimonious departure of John Murphy, brought the record of Gresley's management partnership of Paul Futcher and Garry Birtles, his assistant, to just three defeats in 25 matches.

Toshack's team get difficult cup draw

JOHN TOSHACK, the former Wales striker and, albeit for 47 days only, their manager, confirmed his reputation as one of the leading coaches in Europe when he guided Deportivo La Coruña to the last four in the Cup Winners' Cup on Wednesday. Deportivo, who eliminated their Spanish league rivals, Real Zaragoza, will be making their first appearance at this stage of a European football competition.

Toshack's reward, though, was less than kind. In the semi-final draw yesterday, Deportivo were paired with the strong favourites, Paris Saint-Germain. Feyenoord, who are in their sixth European semi-final, meet the 1985 beaten finalists, Rapid Vienna.

The Uefa Cup semi-finals will see two former European Cup winners, Bayern Munich and Barcelona, meet for the right to take on either Bordeaux or Slavia Prague. Bayern, who beat Nottingham Forest 7-2 on aggregate in the last round, are at home in the first leg.

SEMI-FINAL DRAWS: Cup Winners' Cup: Deportivo La Coruña v Paris Saint-Germain. Feyenoord v Rapid Vienna. First legs April 4, second legs April 18. Uefa Cup: Slavia Prague v Bordeaux; Bayern Munich v Barcelona. First legs April 2, second legs April 16.

Smith gets chance to measure Bradford's rebuilding

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

SOME things at Odsal stay the same. In the bowels of the natural amphitheatre, two posts poked out above the fog. Brian Smith cannot alter the vagaries of the Yorkshire climate, but almost everything else at Bradford Bulls rugby league club, including the name, has changed.

The Australian has been coach and chief executive for seven months. Wearing both hats, he drew a graph measuring team performance and income growth. The two lines are on steady inclines ahead of today's Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final meeting with Leeds at Huddersfield.

Bradford Northern stood for stolid, unchanging values. Its transformation to Bulls was initially damned. A new face and a fresh team is altering attitudes. A Wembley date with St Helens on April 27 would put the reconstruction well ahead of schedule.

"We've had a charmed run to the semis, unlike Leeds, and no one is more surprised to find ourselves in this position than me," Smith said. "In terms of overall readiness, perhaps we aren't ready, but we're here, and although I find it a scary concept, try telling that to the players."

Smith, 42, would not rate defeat by Leeds as a significant setback, as the changes — more than 30 players have come and gone — are directed towards Super League starting next week. The cup run has been a bonus for a young side still getting acquainted.

Robbie Paul, 20, the club captain and brother of Wigan's Henry, is one of the few pre-Smith players left at Odsal. "Bradford's idea of a youth policy was to sign someone of 24. It was an aged side but the sale of Paul Newlove [to St Helens] enabled us to change that and build strength in depth. That deal also got us fine players in Nickle, Loughlin and Dwyer, and a piggy-bank to fund four more deals and two more in the pipeline," Smith said.

Leeds, too, are a young side, but half of them have Wembley experience, and logic dictates they should win. But if Bradford can cause an upset, the pointers on Smith's graph will surely take off.

☐ The Australian Rugby League won a temporary injunction yesterday to stop 311 rebel players signing up to a proposed Global League. The restraint order also applies to Maurice Lindsay, chief executive of the Rugby Football League, who announced the competition would start next week. A full hearing will take place in Sydney on Monday.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

FA Carling Premiership
(-) Arsenal v Newcastle
(1) Bolton v Sheff Wed
(2) Chelsea v QPR
(3) Everton v Wimbledon
(4) Man Utd v Tottenham P
(5) Nottingham Forest v Liverpool
(6) * West Ham v Man City

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	29	20	4	5	55	26	64
Man Utd	31	19	7	5	58	30	64
Liverpool	30	17	8	5	60	26	59
Aston Villa	32	16	8	8	46	30	56
Arsenal	31	14	9	8	42	28	51
Tottenham	30	14	9	7	40	30	51
Everton	31	13	9	9	48	34	48
Blackburn	31	14	6	11	47	36	48
Chelsea	31	11	11	9	36	34	44
Nottm Forest	29	11	11	7	39	40	44
West Ham	31	12	6	13	35	42	42
Leeds	29	11	6	12	35	42	39
Middlesbrough	32	9	9	14	29	42	36
Sheff Wed	31	9	8	14	42	49	35
Man City	31	7	9	15	24	45	30
Coventry	30	5	12	13	37	55	27
Wimbledon	30	6	9	15	42	61	27
Southampton	29	5	10	14	28	43	25
QPR	31	6	5	20	27	49	23
Bolton	31	6	4	21	33	61	22

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
(7) Barnsley v Southend
(8) Charlton v Stoke
(9) Crystal Palace v Portsmouth
(10) Huddersfield v Grimsby P
(11) Leicester v Millwall
(12) Norwich v Derby
(13) Port Vale v Ipswich
(14) Sheffield Utd v Luton
(15) Sunderland v Oldham
(16) Tranmere v Reading
(17) Watford v West Bromwich
(—) Wolverhampton v Birmingham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	36	18	12	6	48	26	66
Derby	37	17	14	6	56	41	65
Crystal Palace	37	16	13	8	54	41	61
Charlton	35	14	14	7	49	39	56
Stoke	35	14	12	9	46	36	54
Ipswich	35	14	11	10	65	52	53
Huddersfield	36	14	11	11	47	43	53
Barnsley	36	13	12	11	50	53	51
Southend	37	13	11	13	44	48	50
Leicester	36	12	13	11	52	53	49
Birmingham	36	12	12	12	47	47	48
Millwall	37	12	11	14	35	47	47
Norwich	37	11	12	14	48	45	45
Wolverhmptn	36	11	12	13	46	48	45
Portsmouth	36	11	11	14	56	57	44
Tranmere	35	11	11	13	47	43	44
Port Vale	33	10	12	11	39	43	42
Grimsby	35	10	12	13	39	50	42
West Brom	36	11	8	17	45	58	41
Reading	35	8	16	11	40	47	40
Oldham	35	9	12	14	45	42	39
Sheff Utd	37	9	12	16	41	51	39
Luton	35	9	10	16	31	47	37
Watford	35	6	14	15	39	51	32

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Quarter-finals: Bromsgrove v Northwich; Chorley v Gateshead; Gresley v Macclesfield; Hyde v Stevenage

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Semi-finals, second leg: Clitheroe (0) v Mangotsfield (1), Flixton (0) v Brigg Town (0)

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Connah's Quay; Caernarfon v Llanelli; Cemaes Bay v Conwy; Ebbw Vale v Newtown (2.30); Flint v Llansantffraid, Holywell v Cwmbran; Porthmadog v Barry (2.30). Rhyl v Afan Lido; Ton Pentre v Briton Ferry. Postponed: Inter Cardiff v Bangor City

Second division
(18) Blackpool v Carlisle
(19) Brentford v Swansea
(20) Bristol City v Wrexham
(21) Chesterfield v Bristol Rovers
(22) Crewe v Bradford
(23) Hull v Walsall
(24) Oxford Utd v Burnley
(25) Rotherham v Wycombe
(26) Shrewsbury v Bournemouth
(27) Stockport v Brighton
(28) Swindon v Peterborough
(29) York v Notts County

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackpool	36	20	10	6	57	31	70
Swindon	34	19	11	4	54	26	68
Crewe	36	19	7	10	66	45	64
Oxford Utd	36	17	9	10	50	33	60
Notts County	34	16	11	7	45	28	59
Chesterfield	33	16	9	8	46	35	57
Wrexham	36	13	14	9	57	43	53
Stockport	37	14	11	12	47	40	53
Bristol Rovers	35	15	8	12	46	48	53
Bradford	35	15	6	14	47	51	51
Bristol City	37	12	12	13	41	46	48
Peterborough	35	12	10	13	51	48	46
Wycombe	35	11	13	11	44	43	46
Walsall	34	12	10	12	42	32	46
Brentford	37	11	11	15	35	43	44
Shrewsbury	36	11	10	15	46	51	43
Burnley	34	11	10	13	45	48	43
Bournemouth	36	12	7	17	39	56	43
Rotherham	35	10	10	15	39	50	40
York	34	8	12	14	41	53	36
Swansea	37	8	12	17	35	62	36
Carlisle	35	7	13	15	42	55	34
Brighton	36	8	9	19	36	52	33
Hull	35	3	13	19	24	56	22

Third division
(30) Barnet v Scarborough
(31) Cambridge Utd v Mansfield
(32) Cardiff v Preston
(33) Colchester v Torquay
(34) * Exeter v Plymouth
(35) Gillingham v Leyton Orient
(36) Hartlepool v Bury
(37) Hereford v Darlington
(at Darlington FC)
(38) Lincoln v Doncaster
(39) Northampton v Chester
(40) Rochdale v Wigan
(41) Scunthorpe v Fulham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	36	18	12	6	41	15	66
Preston	35	16	15	4	66	32	63
Plymouth	36	16	11	9	54	39	59
Wigan	37	16	9	12	53	48	57
Bury	35	15	11	9	50	39	56
Darlington	36	14	14	8	43	35	56
Chester	35	14	13	8	57	40	55
Colchester	36	13	15	8	46	40	54
Barnet	37	12	15	10	46	39	51
Doncaster	35	14	8	13	41	45	50
Northampton	36	13	11	12	39	35	50
Exeter	36	11	15	10	40	39	48
Rochdale	36	12	11	13	49	45	47
Hereford	33	11	13	9	43	37	46
Hartlepool	36	10	13	13	37	44	43
Leyton Orient	36	12	7	17	36	46	43
Fulham	36	8	15	13	45	50	39
Lincoln	36	9	12	15	39	61	39
Cardiff	37	10	9	18	35	52	39
Cambridge Utd	35	10	8	17	48	60	38
Mansfield	34	7	17	10	41	53	38
Scunthorpe	34	9	10	15	43	48	37
Scarborough	37	7	16	14	33	46	37
Torquay	36	5	12	19	27	64	27

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Luton v Millwall (2.0)

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge United v Portsmouth; Charlton v Leyton Orient; Chelsea v Norwich, Fulham v Ipswich; Tottenham v QPR; West Ham v Watford

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Galway v Shelbourne (7.0).

Vauxhall Conference
(—) Kettering v Kidderminster
(—) Morecambe v Farnborough
(—) Runcorn v Hednesford
(—) Slough v Stalybridge
(—) Telford v Southport
(—) Welling v Dagenham and Red
(—) Woking v Dover

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
(42) Aberdeen v Hibernian
(43) Hearts v Partick
(44) Kilmarnock v Raith
(45) Motherwell v Celtic
(46) Rangers v Falkirk

First division
(47) Dumbarton v St Johnstone
(48) Dundee Utd v Clydebank
(49) Dunfermline v St Mirren
(50) Greenock Morton v Airdrie
(51) Hamilton v Dundee

Second division
(52) Ayr v Stirling
(53) Clyde v Montrose
(54) East Fife v Stranraer
(55) Queen Of South v Forfar
(56) Stenhousemuir v Berwick

Third division
(57) Albion v Ross County
(58) Alloa v Livingston
(—) Brechin v Cowdenbeath
(—) Caledonian Thistle v Arbroath
(—) East Stirling v Queen's Park

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Gloucester; Baldock v Salisbury; Chelmsford v Burton, Cheltenham v Hastings; Crawley v VS Rugby; Dorchester v Worcester. Halesowen v Merthyr; Ilkeston v Rushden; Newport AFC v Gravesend and Northfleet; Sudbury v Stafford. Midland division: Bedworth v Buckingham Town; Bury Town v Solihull; Corby v Redditch; Evesham v Grantham; Hinckley v Bridgnorth; Moor Green v Bilston; Paget v King's Lynn; RC Warwick v Dudley; Rothwell v Sutton Coldfield; Stourbridge v Nuneaton; Tamworth v Leicester United. Southern division: Ashford v Clevedon; Braintree v Witney; Cinderford v Waterlooville; Fisher 93 v Fareham, Fleet v Forest Green; Havant v Trowbridge; Margate v Bashley; Newport IoW v Sittingbourne; Poole v Tonbridge Angels; Weston-super-Mare v Weymouth; Yate v Erith and Belvedere.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v Hayes. Carshalton v Boreham Wood. Chertsey v Harrow, Enfield v St Albans; Hendon v Walton and Hersham; Hitchin v Grays; Kingstonian v Aylesbury; Purfleet v Dulwich, Sutton United v Worthing, Yeading v Bromley; Yeovil v Molesey. First division: Abingdon v Thame; Aldershot Town v Whyteleafe, Barking v Uxbridge; Basingstoke v Tooting and Mitcham; Chesham v Bognor Regis; Heybridge v Berkhamsted; Leyton Pennant v Barton; Ruislip Manor v Billericay; Staines v Marlow; Wembley v Oxford City; Wokingham v Maidenhead. Second division: Bedford Town v Croydon; Bracknell v Hampton; Cheshunt v Wivenhoe, Dorking v Saffron Walden; Egham v Chalfont. Hemel Hempstead v Hungerford; Leatherhead v Edgware; Met Police v Banstead; Tilbury v Witham; Ware v Canvey Island. Third division: Aveley v Cove; Epsom and Ewell v East Thurrock; Harlow v Lewes, Hertford v Flackwell Heath; Hornchurch v Camberley, Kingsbury v Clapton; Southall v Horsham; Wealdstone v Tring, Windsor and Eton v Leighton, Wingate and Finchley v Harefield.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Frickley; Bamber Bridge v Marine, Bishop Auckland v Boston, Blyth v Winsford; Colwyn Bay v Spennymoor, Gainsborough v Barrow; Guiseley v Droylsden; Knowsley v Witton; Leek v Matlock. First division: Ashton United v Alfreton; Bradford Park Avenue v Worksop; Congleton v Leigh; Eastwood Town v Atherton LR; Farsley Celtic v Radcliffe, Greats v Warrington; Harrogate Town v Fleetwood; Lancaster v Lincoln United; Netherfield v Curzon Ashton: Workington v Whitley Bay

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Manor Farm v Westbury; Calne v Bridport; Chippenham v Bideford; Frome v Backwell; Paulton v Crediton; Torrington v Elmore

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss v Wisbech, Fakenham v Sudbury; Hadleigh v Newmarket. March v Lowestoft; Stowmarket v Harwich and Parkeston; Tiptree v Great Yarmouth. Watton v Halstead; Wroxham v Woodbridge

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Cowes Sports; Andover v Swanage and Herston; BAT v East Cowes; Bemerton Heath v Portsmouth; Eastleigh v Totton; Ryde Sports v Gosport; Thatcham v Aerostructures; Whitchurch v Downton; Wimborne v Bournemouth.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hailsham v Burgess Hill; Hassocks v Ringmer, Horsham YMCA v Arundel, Langney Sports v Three Bridges, Oakwood v Mile Oak; Portfield v Whitehawk; Southwick v Crowborough; Stamco v Pagham, Wick v Eastbourne Town

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell v Hinckley Ath, Blakenhall v Stratford Town; Boldmere SM v Shepshed; Halesowen Harriers v Rushall Olympic, Oldbury v Stapenhill; Pershore v Rocester, Shifnal v Sandwell. West Midlands Police v Bolehall; Willenhall v Chasetown

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Boston v Wootton; Desborough v Stamford; Eynesbury v S and L Corby; Kempston v Holbeach; Long Buckby v Potton; Mirrlees v Cogenhoe. Newport Pagnell v Wellingborough; St Neots v Raunds, Spalding v Northampton Spencer, Stotfold v Bourne

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Chatham; Corinthian v Ramsgate; Cray v Thamesmead; Dartford v Canterbury; Deal v Hythe; Faversham v Herne Bay; Folkestone Invicta v Greenwich: Tunbridge Wells v Crockenhill

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon United v Endsleigh; Almondsbury v Burnham; Banbury v Cirencester; Brackley v Fairford; Carterton v Swindon Supermarine, N Leigh v Shortwood, Tuffley v Bicester

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers v Southend Manor; Brentwood v Stansted; Concord v Hullbridge Sports; Eton Manor v Maldon; Great Wakering v East Ham; Romford v Ford; Sawbridgeworth v Burnham Ramblers.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Ashford v Viking Sports; Chipstead v DCA Basingstoke; Cranleigh v Eton Wick, Godalming and G v Ash; Hartley Wintney v Feltham; Horley v Bedfont; Peppard v Farnham; Reading Town v Merstham; Sandhurst v Netherne; Walton Casuals v Cobham; Westfield v Raynes Park Vale

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham v Hanwell; Beaconsfield Sycob v Brimsdown; Cockfosters v Corinthian-Casuals, Croydon v Woolwich; Hillingdon Borough v Tottenham Omada, St Margaretsbury v Barkingside; Tufnell Park v Willesden, Waltham Abbey v Brook House.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey v Shillington; Welwyn GC v Biggleswade; Milton Keynes v Buckingham Ath; Tottington v Harpenden; Hatfield v Langford. Letchworth v Potters Bar; Hoddesdon v London Colney; Royston v Brache

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Hucknall, Arnold v Hatfield Main; Ashfield v Pickering, Liversedge v Thackley; Maltby MW v Hallam, North Ferriby v Glasshoughton Welfare; Ossett Albion v Ossett Town; Sheffield v Denaby: Stocksbridge PS v Belper

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers v Burscough; Bootle v Eastwood Hanley; Darwen v Penrith, Holker OB v Nantwich; Mossley v Prescot; Newcastle Town v Kidsgrove; St Helens v Glossop NE; Salford v Chadderton; Skelmersdale v Rossendale.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v Consett; Billingham Synthonia v Shildon, Chester-le-Street v Whickham; Dunston Federation v Whitby; Ferryhill v Durham City; Guisborough v West Auckland, Peterlee v Murton; RTM Newcastle v Eppleton CW; Stockton v Crook; Tow Law v Seaham Red Star

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bangor v Glentoran, Cliftonville v Portadown, Crusaders v Linfield; Glenavon v Ards

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Carthusians v Chigwellians, Foresters v Malvernians. First division: Bradfieldians v Salopians, Haberdashers v Wykehamists, Wellingburians v Harrovians; Witleians v Brentwoods

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn v Clapham; Latymer v Meadonians: Aloysians v Tenisonians, Ignatians v Danes; Isleworthians v Hamptonians. Senior first division: Chertsey v Wilsonians; Tenisonians Res v Manorians; Tiffinians v Vaughanians; Phoenix v Kingsburians; Shene v Suttonians.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Carshalton v East Barnet OG, Civil Service v Kew Assoc; Old Esthameians v Winchmore Hill; S Bank v Old Actonians; W Wickham v Crouch End Vamps. Second division: Alexandra Pk v Barclays; Lensbury v Old Parkonians, Old Lyonian v Old Bromleians: Old Stationers v Old Latymerians, Polytechnic v Lloyds.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Albanian v Parkfield, Nottsborough v Hale End; Ulysses v Old Grammarians: Witan v St Mary's College. Senior two: City of London v UCL Acads; Corinthian-Casuals v Old Woodhouseians, Ealing Assoc v Hadley, Hon Artillery Co v Old Finchleians, Mill Hill v Old Bealonians.

SCHOOLS MATCHES (10.30 unless stated): Under-15 international: Wales v Ireland (at Carmarthen). English Fuji Film Trophy; Semi-final: Hackney v Bury (at East London Stadium, 2.0).

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby v Chester (8.0); Thames Valley v Doncaster (8.0); Worthing v Hemel Hempstead (8.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Cardiff v Nottingham; Coventry v Bury; Oldham and Rochdale v Brixton; Solent v Stockton: Plymouth v Ware. Women: First division: Northampton v Plymouth; Spelthorne v Sheffield. Thames V v London.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Championship play-offs: Fife v Basingstoke (7.15); Cardiff v Newcastle (6.15); Nottingham v Sheffield (6.30); Humberside v Durham (6.30). Promotion/relegation play-offs: Bracknell v Blackburn (6.0), Dumfries v Slough (7.30); Milton Keynes v Guildford (6.30).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Pilkington Cup
Semi-finals
Bath v Gloucester
London Irish v Leicester (2.15)

Courage Clubs Championship
First division
Wasps v Sale
West Hartlepool v Harlequins

Second division
Northampton v Bedford

Third division
Morley v Fylde
Otley v Harrogate
Reading v Rotherham
Richmond v Coventry
Rosslyn Park v Rugby

Fourth division
Exeter v Aspatria
Leeds v Clifton
Liverpool St Helens v Havant
London Welsh v Redruth (2.45)
Walsall v Plymouth

Fifth division north
Wharfedale v Nuneaton

Swalec Cup
Quarter-finals
Llanelli v Cardiff (2.30)
Neath v Dunvant (2.30)
Newbridge v Pontypridd (2.30)
Newport v Caerphilly (2.30)

Heineken League
First division
Swansea v Bridgend (2.30)
Treorchy v Abertillery (2.30)

Second division
Cross Keys v Maesteg (2.30)
Pontypool v South Wales Police (2.30)
THIRD DIVISION: Blaina v Glamorgan Wndrs, Narberth v Penarth, Tondu v Builth Wells.

Tennents 1556 Cup
Fifth round
Melrose v Boroughmuir

Tennents Championship
Regional League
East one
Watsonians v Biggar

East two
Dundee HSFP v Grangemouth
Kirkcaldy v Corstorphine
Stewart's Melville v Gordonians

South
Gala v Langholm

West
Glasgow HK v Glasgow Acads
Glasgow South v Ayr

Insurance Corporation League
First division
Blackrock Coll v St Mary's College (2.30)
Cork Constitution v Garryowen (2.30)
Instonians v Old Wesley (2.30)
Shannon v Ballymena (2.30)
Young Munster v Lansdowne (2.30)

Second division
Bective Rangers v NIFC (2.30)
Dungannon v Terenure Coll (2.30)
Malone v Dolphin (2.30)
Sunday's Well v Clontarf (2.30)
Wanderers v Greystones (2.30)

CLUB MATCHES: Askeans v Basingstoke; Barking v Bishops Stortford, Bonymaen v Aberavon (2.30); Bristol v London Scottish, Camborne v Penzance (2.30); Edinburgh Acads v Bradford and Bingley; Hawick v Kelso; Kendal v Northern; Lichfield v Camp Hill; Met Police v Southend; Moseley v Worcester (3.30); Newcastle v Stirling Co; Musselburgh v Heriot's FP; Nottingham v Orrell; Saracens v Blackheath; Selkirk v Peebles; Sheffield v Vale of Lune; Stoke v Manchester; Stourbridge v Cheltenham, Tabard v Hertford; Weston-super-Mare v Blackwood; Wigtownshire v Banbridge

Pilkington Shield
Semi-finals
Helston v Wellingborough OG
(at Bridgwater, (2.30)
Medicals v Old Centralians
(at Wakefield, 2.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Semi-final
Bradford v Leeds
(at Huddersfield, 2.15)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division (all 2.30). Dudley Hill v Leigh Miners Welfare: Egremont v West Hull: Heworth v Wigan St Patricks; Lock Lane v Saddleworth. Woolston v Hemel Hempstead

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Second division: Beeston v Olton and West Warwickshire (Highfields, 12.0), Blueharts v Doncaster (Hitchin BS, 1.0). Brooklands v Harleston Magpies (Georges Road, Sale, 2.0); City of Portsmouth v Richmond (Alexandra Park, Portsmouth, 1.30), Firebrands v Crostyx (Longwood, Bristol, 12.45)

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Hampshire/Surrey: Old Cranleighans v Purley. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Eressa v Bracknell; Ramgarhia v Harrow, Richings Park v Eastcote.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Colchester v Redbridge and Ilford, Ipswich v Peterborough. Premier division B: Luton v Clacton; Romford v Old Southendian: Stevenage v Norwich, Westcliff v Dereham.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Bracknell v Hightown; Clifton v Leicester; Doncaster v Sutton; Ipswich v Slough. First division: Bradford v Canterbury, Chelmsford v Sunderland; Exmouth v Wimbledon; Trojans v Blueharts

REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Bexleyheath v Cambridge. Ipswich v WGC; Saracens v Harleston, Sevenoaks v Loughtonians. Midlands: Bedford v Tamworth; Coventry Ramblers v Pavert; Hampton v Leicester; Pickwick v Kettering. North: Newcastle v Don Valley; Poynton v Liverpool; Sheffield v Carlisle; York v Blackburn. South: Camberley v Winchmore Hill; City of Portsmouth v Dulwich; Hampstead v Worthing; Southampton v Hendon; Winchester v West Witney. West: Bournemouth v Wimborne; Redland v Leominster; St Austell v Cheltenham; Yate v East Glos.

HOME COUNTRIES SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP (Livingston FC, 10.0).

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Sheffield v Poynton, Timperley v Mellor; Stockport v Boardman and Eccles: Cheadle Hulme v Heaton Mersey.

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: Europa two-day road race (First stage, 100km, Meonstoke, 1.30). March Hare (Premier Calendar) 100km (Eastway circuit, Stratford, 2.30)

MOTOR SPORT: Vauxhall Rally of Wales

SPEEDWAY (all 7.30): Premier League: Coventry v Wolverhampton; Cradley Heath and Stoke v Ipswich (at Stoke). Yorkshire Trophy, first leg: Bradford v Hull. Challenge: Swindon v Reading.

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Coca-Cola Cup
Final
Aston Villa v Leeds
(at Wembley, 5.0)

FA Carling Premiership
Man Utd v Tottenham (4.0)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
Huddersfield v Grimsby (1.0)

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chippenham v Barnstaple.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Cork v Athlone (3.15): UCD v Sligo (3.15)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National league: Doncaster v Ilkeston; Millwall v Wolverhampton; Wembley v Villa.

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Semi-finals: Liverpool v Arsenal; Croydon v Ipswich

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Garswood St Helens v Sheffield Wednesday; Huddersfield v Notts County; RTM Newcastle v Langford. Southern division: Leyton Orient v Southampton Saints; Wimbledon v Three Bridges

RUGBY UNION

Representative match
Wales Youth v England Colts
(at Swansea, 2.0)

HOCKEY

MILTON KEYNES: Men's international: England v India (3.15). Women's internationals: England v France (1.15)

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division B: Ipswich and East Suffolk v Brentwood, Norwich City v Sudbury

SURREY CUP: Final: Wimbledon v Woking (Old Cranleighans)

ENGLISH WOMEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Under-19: East (St Ives), Midlands (Bedford); West (Bristol)

HOME COUNTRIES SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIP (Livingston FC, 9.30)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester v Newcastle (5.0); Sheffield v Manchester (6.15); Hemel Hempstead v Leicester (1.30): London Towers v Birmingham (5.0)

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Crystal Palace v Mid-Sussex. Women: First division: Nottingham v Spelthorne, Sheffield v Barking and Dagenham; Tyne and Wear v Plymouth.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Championship play-offs: Fife v Nottingham (6.30); Cardiff v Humberside (6.15); Sheffield v Basingstoke (6.30); Newcastle v Durham (6.30). Promotion/relegation play-offs: Blackburn v Guildford (6.0), Manchester v Dumfries (6.0); Milton Keynes v Bracknell (6.0); Swindon v Slough (6.0).

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: Europa two-day road race (Second stage, 5.6km time-trial, Meonstoke, 8.30; third stage, 120km road race, Meonstoke, 11.0).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Ipswich v Cradley Heath and Stoke (3.45)

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Women: First division: Britannia v Leeds; Guildford v Salford; Wessex v Orpington; Birmingham v Liverpool; Shaft Wed v Loughborough

SIMON BARNES 47
THAT SHRINKING
FEELING CATCHES
AUSTRALIA SHORT

SPORT

SATURDAY MARCH 23 1996

RUGBY UNION 49
HILL RETURNS TO
HAPPY HUNTING
GROUND IN CUP

Yeboah and Yorke can put fizz into Coca-Cola Cup final

Leading men set to sparkle

By Rob Hughes
Football Correspondent

THE Coca-Cola Cup might not be the real thing but, so long as nobody tells Tony Yeboah or Dwight Yorke, there is the mouthwatering prospect of some memorable moments when Leeds United meet Aston Villa in the final at Wembley tomorrow.

Yeboah, out of Africa, and Yorke, from the Caribbean, are representatives of the foreign legion, imports who this winter have finally put an end to the nonsense that English football is so fast and so committed that overseas players could never cope with it.

Cope? They lift it, separate it from the norm, transcend the safety-first aspects and the physical aggression of the cul-de-sac down which so many English teams have been led. Yeboah has a hunger, a quite awesome physical and acrobatic approach to goalscoring, that even if this is the only full season we get out of him, we will remember him. Yorke has grown on English minds more slowly, has come to bewitch us with a style every bit as open as his Tobagan smile, and at last to release flair of his own that, 22 times so far this season, defences have not been able to plot against.

Smooth McAllister **50**
Match guide **50**
Milosevic's target **51**

They are, of course, individuals in a team game, but why would anyone want to bring them to this country to try to make them scuffle, as so many home-bred players all too readily do? The sight, recently, in two wretchedly barren games, of Leeds being so fearful of Liverpool that they tried simply to negate them, was terrible.

Yeboah, instead of lurking, waiting for his phenomenal match-winning moments, was seen scurrying around the pitch, sometimes almost in the right-back position, not only wasted but wasteful because he simply has not the education to tackle properly. And yet, throw him up in the air at the other end of the field, watch him raise his body horizontal to the ground and lift either foot to score over his own head, and you have the quintessential athlete towards which a multimillion-pound game should aspire.

He is outscored, so far this season, by Yorke simply because Yeboah, who now has exactly 100 goals in 176 appearances for Eintracht Frankfurt and Leeds, was absent for eight matches, on duty with Ghana in the African Nations' Cup. Leeds won just once in those eight matches, such is his talismanic presence among them.

Of course there is much that goes into teamwork behind them. In midfield there is the battle of wiles between Andy Townsend and Gary McAllister. There is the stealth and bravery of Gary Speed, who is back barely one month after fracturing his cheekbone.

And, in the three-man defences which these teams are both likely to deploy, Gareth Southgate has apparently won his fitness battle and will play two weeks after damaging ankle ligaments. Alongside him, Paul McGrath, a graduate of the hard school of football apprenticeships, loses nothing in application or footballing intelligence to Leeds's David Wetherall, who is an honours graduate in chemistry. Finally, behind all of them, stand Mark Bosnich and John Lukic, men with among the safest hands in the goalkeeping profession.

And yet, one comes again and again in analysis to the almost hypnotic parts that Yeboah and Yorke might conjure up. They have big supporting players — for Leeds Brian Deane, and for Villa Savo Milosevic — men who, if only they can believe in their talents, would surely be greater names in our game.

Perhaps Deane, a student of the foreign game, sums it up best: "He [Yeboah] is different to anyone I've ever played with. If you watch his close control and technique, it's definitely of a different continent."

Yeboah has said that he may, by 1998 or sooner, take those talents back to Africa, where, after the dream of playing at Wembley, he hopes and intends to school his children the way his civil servant father schooled him.

If, tomorrow, there is to be fulfilment for him, and enjoyment for us, then the two managers, Howard Wilkinson and Brian Little, will have to encourage the game to flow.

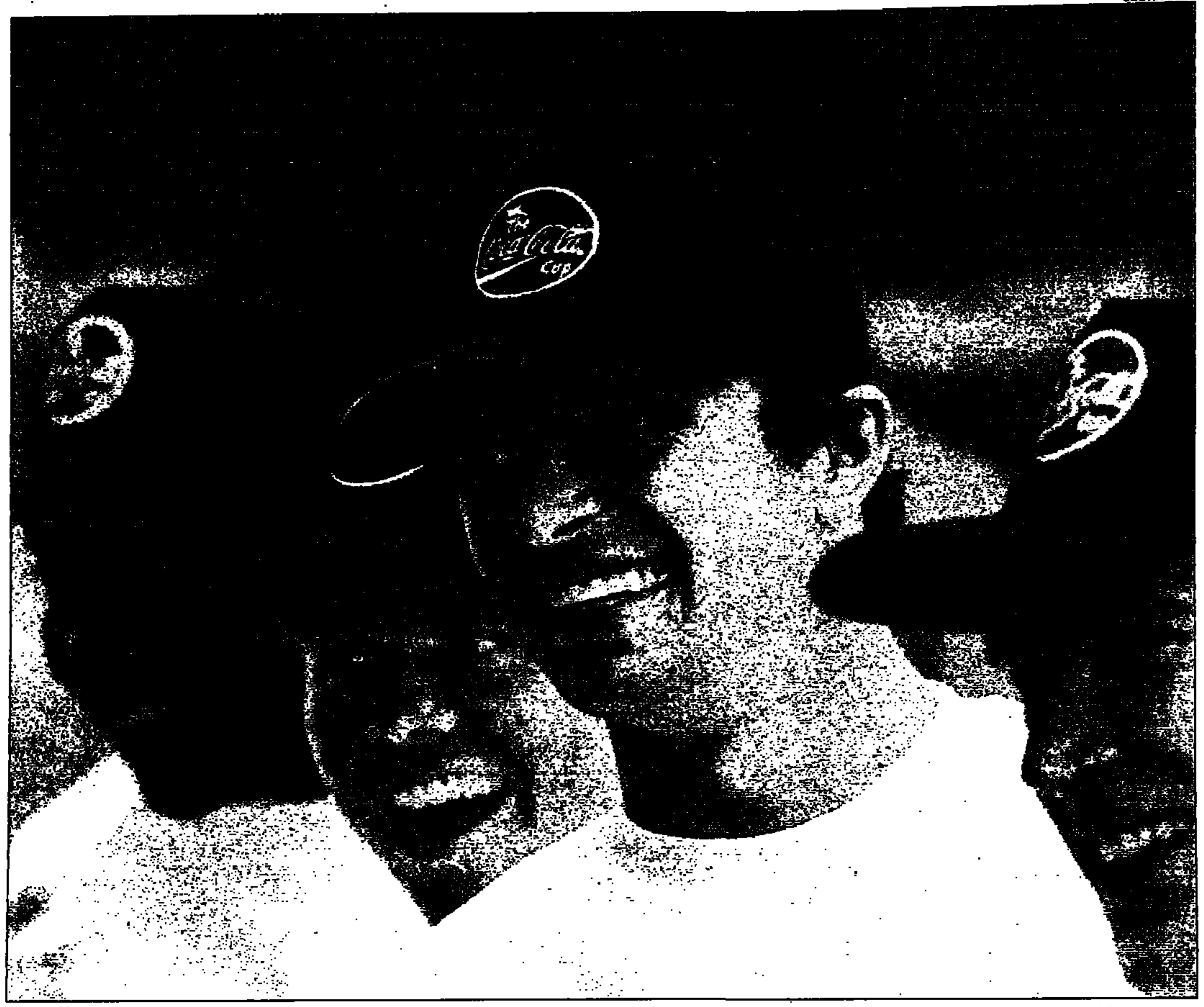
They are both more than capable of "squeezing the game", that horrible euphemism for the dreadful negation through over-bearing defence. It comes from fear, but surely Wilkinson does not fear Aston Villa in quite the way he feared Liverpool in the FA Cup?

Wilkinson's own demeanour brightened perceptively when his club won through to Wembley for the first time in 23 years. "You start off as a kid wanting to play in a cup final, and then you start off as a manager wanting to take a team to a cup final," Wilkinson enthused. Please, Howard, let that enthusiasm rise in your soul this weekend.

He must remember his own roots when, as a miner's son in South Yorkshire, he fell in love with football the day he joined a group around a nine-inch television set owned by one of the neighbours and was bewitched by Stanley Matthews in the 1953 FA Cup Final. Wilkinson has, if he dares to use them, a couple of wingers up his sleeve.

He does not wholly seem to trust Rod Wallace and, if not, then he has the developing talent of Andy Gray, 18. But, then again, Wilkinson has also to try to trust Tomas Brolin, a half-fit Swede for whom he paid a reported £4.5 million and who, at best, is likely to rise off the substitutes' bench to add his talent to the Leeds effort.

It is intriguing, a final between equals, where the managers' throw of a dice, the daring to send on a quality player, could be both decisive and beautiful.


JUSTIN SLEE

Speed, second right, takes his place in the Leeds United line-up at Wembley tomorrow barely a month after fracturing his cheekbone

Wilkinson banks on imports

HOWARD WILKINSON, the Leeds United manager, visits Wembley tomorrow with more than £100,000 in prize-money and a place in next season's Uefa Cup riding on the outcome. He has, it seems, the future of his expensively-assembled side at stake.

Wilkinson has based his team-building plans around two foreign imports, Tony Yeboah and Tomas Brolin, who cost a combined £8 million in transfer fees. The bluff-talking northerner gambled on such a massive outlay to bring success to Elland Road. Now he must gamble on victory in this one game to retain their services.

Yeboah joined Leeds barely a year ago and Brolin arrived in November, and yet both players have indicated that they will seriously consider their long-term future in English football should Leeds fail to win tomorrow. Both players are keen to continue playing in European competition, and with the Coca-Cola Cup now the only remaining route to the continent for their club, success is imperative.

"If Leeds are not in Europe then it will be a very, very difficult situation for me," Yeboah said. "I will retire in two or three years' time, and I need to be playing at the very top until then. I would have to consider my position carefully if we don't qualify, because it is very, very important for me to be playing in European competition."

Brolin echoed those convictions. "I will speak about my future after the last game of the season, but it is fair to say that it would be easier for me to say yes to staying if Leeds qualify for Europe. Every player wants to play in Europe; it is an important influence."

Illingworth to carry on as Graveney bows to pressure

By Simon Wilde

NOT for the first time this year, English cricket exposed itself to the highest farce yesterday, although this time the *Carry On* capers were entirely off the field. Only 24 hours after being formally confirmed as a candidate for the position of chairman of selectors, David Graveney bowed to pressure from the Cricketers' Association, the players' union of which he is general secretary, and withdrew his nomination.

Graveney entered the election against Raymond Illingworth, who has been chairman since 1994, with assurances that there would not be a conflict of interest over him taking on the two roles, but that was not the opinion of some counties, nor, more important, of the association's executive, in the form of Tim Curtis and Jack Bannister, respectively chairman and president.

They anticipated insurmountable difficulties in Graveney acting as servant and master to the players, and dealing with the media on two fronts. They also doubted whether there would be time for him to perform both jobs satisfactorily.

The executive presented him with an ultimatum to chose between the jobs. After lengthy telephone calls across the Atlantic, Graveney, who is holidaying in Florida, opted to continue his full-time job with the association, although with obvious reluctance, and without conceding that he shared the executive's views.

"As a paid employee of the Cricketers' Association, I accept the instruction of the president and the chairman," a statement from Graveney read. "I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Warwickshire and Surrey for nominating me and to any other counties who might have supported me.

"I apologise for any distress this decision may have caused to them or any other party. It has always been my wish to serve the game to the best of my ability and I shall continue to do this in the future."

Graveney became the Cricketers' Association's first full-time employee in 1994, and an England selector last year. His dual commitments had caused concern before, especially when he became involved in the complaints of mistreatment made by Devon Malcolm, a player whom he had a duty to represent, against Illingworth, a fellow selector.

The indications were that Graveney would have run Illingworth very close, if not actually beaten him, in the vote, the result of which was to have been announced on Tuesday. Now, with the deadline for nominations having passed, a vote is unnecessary, and Illingworth will retain chairman for a third year, to the immense frustration of his opponents.

"We're devastated that there will not now be an election," Paul Sheldon, the chief executive of Surrey, said. "We felt David was the right man at the right time. Our philosophy was that a younger generation must now come forward and we support the backing that Mike Gatting and David Gower had given to Graveney. Even in the brief period that he was a candidate, there was a growing base of support for David Graveney and all the indications were that it would be a close vote.

"There will be great dissatisfaction that the status quo is to be preserved. With no election now possible, the counties are effectively voting for no change in the way the England team is run and in the state of English cricket. That is totally irresponsible."

Illingworth: unopposed

Graveney, who agreed to stand when John Barclay, Illingworth's assistant during the winter, declined invitations from counties to put himself up against the chairman, had proposed in his manifesto a series of radical changes to the way that the England team was run, though there was some doubt as to whether he would be able to implement these immediately had he won.

Much of Illingworth's likely support came from those counties which felt that the status quo ought to be maintained until the results of an ongoing inquiry — chaired by David Acfield — into all aspects of the management of the England team are published later this year.

Having retained one job, Illingworth must now wait until Tuesday to see whether he will hold onto another. The Test and County Cricket Board executive committee will then review England's unhappy winter and Illingworth's position as team manager, a post he has said that he wants to relinquish in September come what may.

Curle fined and warned after disrepute hearing

By David Maddock
and Peter Ball

KEITH CURLE, the Manchester City captain, was fined £500 by the *Football Association* yesterday, and warned as to his future conduct, after admitting his guilt over a disrepute charge brought when he used foul and abusive language against Paul Alcock, the FA Carling Premiership referee. The incident occurred immediately after City's game with Everton in February, which Everton won 2-0.

"I'm glad it's over because it has been very embarrassing," Curle said. "I've never been before the FA on a disrepute charge and yet I'm facing two in a week. I pleaded guilty but asked for my record to be taken into account."

Curle might not be as fortunate *with his second appearance at* Lancaster Gate. A date will be set early next week to hear charges brought against him and Faustino Asprilla, the Newcastle United forward, after two incidents involving the pair during a Premiership match last month. "I don't know if I will be pleading guilty," Curle said. "To be honest, I don't fully understand what it is they are charging me with."

Ray Harford, the Blackburn Rovers manager, yesterday completed the signing of Garry Flitcroft from Manchester City for £3 million. He then predicted a bright future for the midfield player.

"*I first worked with Garry 2½* years ago with the England under-21s and I was impressed," Harford said. "He is a complete midfield player and I like midfield players who can score goals."

Flitcroft said: "I'm 23 and I've been fighting relegation for three years. I've seen players I was with in the England under-21s go on and I think I've stood still. Now, I hope, by coming to Blackburn, I can achieve things."

Genoa, the Italian *Serie B* club, has denied reports that it is the mystery buyer of the 34 per cent shareholding in Norwich City held by Robert Chase, the chairman.

Aldo Spinelli, the Genoa president, said: "I had an offer to take over a major quota in Norwich, an investment of £6 million. I know the people, and love the city, but I have declined for the moment."

Chase announced on Thursday that he had agreed to sell his holding, after ten years at the club, but he declined to identify the purchasers. The sale is subject to an independent audit of the Norwich accounts.

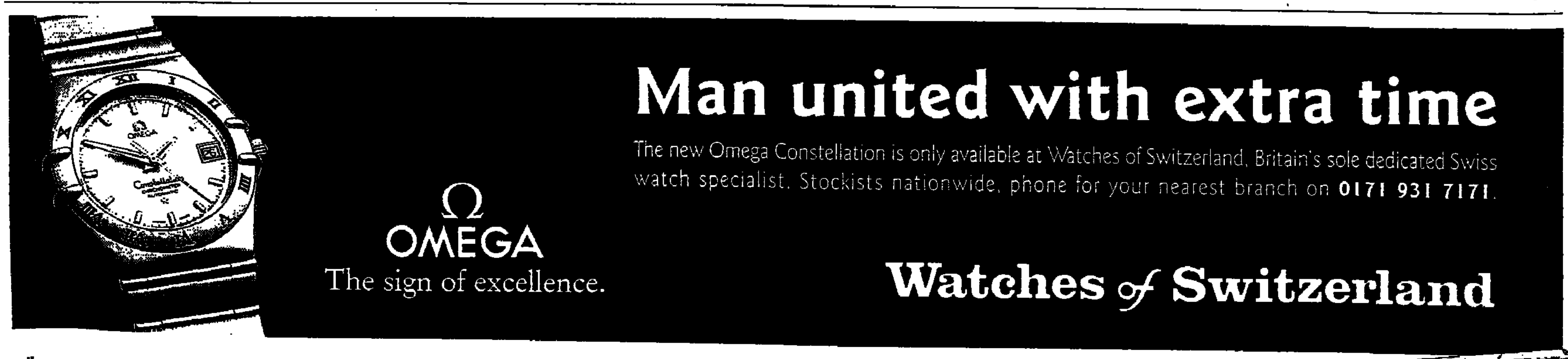
Flitcroft: bright future

Modahl clearance may follow IAAF meeting

DIANE MODAHL may receive full international clearance of a drugs offence in the next three days, as the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) council meets in Cape Town tomorrow and Monday with her case on its agenda (David Powell writes). If the IAAF has good news for Modahl, it had none yesterday for the British Athletic Federation (BAF), refusing to offer it financial support towards the defence of a High Court action in which Modahl is suing the BAF for £480,000.

A source inside the IAAF suggested yesterday that Modahl should have grounds for optimism because the council would hardly be studying the case now had its expert advisers on drugs not been impressed by new evidence. Modahl was sent home from the Commonwealth Games 19 months ago after failing a drugs test taken nine weeks earlier. A BAF appeals panel cleared her last July after an earlier BAF hearing had found her guilty.

Feeling the beat, page 47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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 23 1996

WHY WE WANT TO BE ALONE

by Lynne Truss

For rather obvious reasons, there are no sit-coms set in a single-person household. Tony Hancock did *The Bedsitter* in the early 1960s, and jolly good it was too, but as a dramatic genre the SPH never really took off. It's the absence of interaction that's the problem. People living on their own may occasionally slap their knees and say aloud "Cup of tea time!" or "Damn, missed *The Archers*!" but it doesn't make such good domestic drama as squabbling over who takes out the bins, or establishing which lousy varmint finished off the marmalade without saying.

Anyway, this is my theory, like it or not: that because the single household is rarely given the affirmation of the screen role model, non-singles assume it must be weird or sad or awful, and consequently have no idea what they're missing. In the film *Batman Returns*, frowzy single-householder Michelle Pfeiffer flings open the door of her lonely flat, kicks off her shoes and yells optimistically "Hi honey, I'm home!" and then slumps against the wall sighing, "Oh I forgot, I'm not married". That's the general picture of what it's like, and it's a wicked lie.

But now a fine new Marketing Intelligence (Mintel) survey (*Single Person Households: getting younger, richer and happier*) has discovered that the single household is a positive place, where people chuck about upbeat words like "freedom" and "achievement". Glad to know it's official at last, and that products will soon be aimed at those of us who can buy things on a whim without involving anybody else. In my experience, people who live alone consult their own wishes, and if this also means they pick their feet and talk for hours on the phone, who cares? They eat home-delivery pizzas without shame, straight from the box. They get lots of undisturbed sleep, and don't waste time arguing about bins or marmalade. They have the remote control in their own hands. Once I installed a catflap all by myself, and the sense of achievement I experienced was extraordinary: it was better than publishing a novel.

I shall temper the evangelical tone, but only with difficulty, for once you have achieved happiness in the single state, you hear words like "selfish" and "weird" levelled against you, and have no idea what's meant by it, save envy. It's true that single people are often excluded from the dinner party circuit, which is hurtful; but it is wrong to assume that hostesses are worried about losing their husbands to the rogue female in the low-cut top and the big lipstick. Single people make couples nervous because they are free spirits, who have kicked away the ladder of dependence. When the marital bickering starts, single people shake their heads and say Ooh-tut-tut-tut. Like Freddie the dolphin, they made an adult decision to spend more time away from their family. "Selfish" has no meaning whatever in this context.

And as for "weird", this accusation is easily parried. "You'll get *weird*," your couplesome friends warn you. "You'll get set in your ways and only buy the one sort of yoghurt, and wear pyjamas all day on Sunday." But when you ask these critics outright, "Do you ever call each other Bunny Wunny in funny voices when you're at home?" they get shifty and snap, "What's that got to do with anything?" And then you've got them, because there's

Continued on page 3, col 1

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2 CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

VASES AND VOLCANOES Sir William Hamilton has never had a good press, but then when did a complaisant husband or member of an enforced *ménage à trois*? However, as the British Museum's spectacular new spring exhibition vividly demonstrates, history has played Hamilton false by allowing him in primarily as Lady Hamilton's other quarter. He was an influential diplomat and, more importantly, an obsessed collector. Moreover, he was stationed in Naples for 35 years during the gradual excavation of Pompeii and Herculaneum, so that he was on the spot for some of the most spectacular hauls. Unfortunately, he was so obsessed that he kept bankrupting himself and had to sell most of his collections (notably one of the greatest ever of painted Greek vases). All this is chronicled, with objects and copies of Hamilton's publications. Nor are the decadent Court of Naples and Emma, whom he surely collected as a beautiful object, forgotten.
British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun 2.30-6pm, until July 14. Admission £3.50, concessions £2.
Arts, page 21, Section One

HAREWOOD HOUSE MASTERPIECES Edward Viscount Lascelles was one of the great patrons of the early 19th century, collecting art in the first heyday of such great watercolourists as Turner, Thomas Girtin and John Varley, all of whom made numerous paintings and drawings of the house and the estate. Though the collection was largely dispersed after the viscount's death, the family has succeeded in buying back a lot of what was lost, and the result, on display here, is a collection of national importance. There is also evidence that the collecting persisted among his descendants, because there are fine Samuel Palmers and excellent examples of Victorian watercolour art, including some by the queen herself.
Harewood House, Leeds (0113 288 6331). Daily, 11am-4.30pm, until June. Admission £6, concessions £5 or £4.

DANCE

John Percival

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET Today is the last chance to see Derek Deane's colourful new staging of *Alice in Wonderland* and Sue Blaine's wonderful designs. Next week brings two further programmes, both also new here. Michael Corder has produced a new *Cinderella* (Monday to Wednesday) using a more complete version of the Prokofiev score than we often hear. From Thursday comes Deane's interpretation of *Giselle*, together with Balanchine's *Square Dance*, a bravura mixture of folksy charm and classic display.
London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300). 7.30pm; matinées Sat, 2.30pm, until March 30 (except Sunday).

Lisa Pavane as Cinderella

SCOTTISH BALLET The programme now on tour is the best the company has shown for quite a time, combining tradition and creation at a high level. What could be more apt for Scotland's national company than *La Sylphide*, the romantic classic in which a Scottish farmer loses bride and fortune for love of a mysterious creature from the glen? Complementing this is Mark Baldwin's new ballet *Ae Fond Kiss*, which takes its title from Burns's poem and its inspiration from some of Stravinsky's most attractive ballet music, *The Divertimento* from *Le Baiser de la Fée* based on melodies borrowed from Tchaikovsky.
Edinburgh Festival Theatre, Edinburgh (0141-529 6000), today 2pm and 7.30pm; **His Majesty's Theatre**, Aberdeen (01224 641122), Tues-Sat; **Eden Court Theatre**, Inverness (01463 234234), April 3 to 6; **Theatre Royal**, Newcastle (0191 232 2061), April 9-13; **New Theatre**, Hull (01482 226655), April 6-20.

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

JEFF WALL An outstanding exhibition by an artist based in Vancouver, who works miracles with backlit transparencies. All mounted in aluminium lightboxes, Wall's images command an extraordinary range of moods and subjects. At his most disturbing he shows butchered Soviet soldiers rising from the dead on an Afghanistan battlefield. At his most serene he photographs the Canadian landscape with an eye for its mountainous magnificence. But he also finds disquiet in the countryside, especially when two riflemen pursue an undisclosed quarry in scrubland. Wall's use of the camera is often masterly, and always informed by a profound response to the history of Western painting.
Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel Road, London E1 (0171-522 7878), until May 5.

VISUAL ARTS UK Launching an ambitious programme of exhibitions throughout the year, the North East presents recent purchases by three national collecting bodies. In Sunderland, art and craft acquisitions by the Contemporary Art Society are handsomely displayed in the Sunderland Museum and the Reg Vardy Gallery at the University. The variety and quality of purchases are impressive, from Bridget Riley to Steven Pippin. In Newcastle, at the University's Hatton Gallery, the Arts Council's recent acquisitions make an equally lively display. Ranging from a disturbing cage structure by Damien Hirst to quiet, lightbox photographs of the Arts Council buyers by Catherine Yass, the show introduces visitors to some of the finest contemporary British art. So do the Tate Gallery's purchases at the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle, where works by Anish Kapoor, Frank Auerbach and many others culminate in a spectacular installation by Cornelia Parker: the reassembled fragments of a shed, blown up in a controlled explosion by the British Army.
Sunderland Museum (0191-565 0723) and **Reg Vardy Gallery**, Sunderland University (0191-515 2000); **Hatton Gallery**, Newcastle University (0191-222 6057); **Laing Art Gallery**, Newcastle upon Tyne (0191-232 7734), until April 13.

BRITISH MUSEUM

From William Hamilton's collection, a wine-mixing bowl made in south Italy, circa 330 BC (see Museums)

FILM

Geoff Brown

TOY STORY (PG) The first feature cartoon generated entirely by computers is not just a dazzling technical achievement. John Lasseter's movie, produced for Disney, also packs an emotional punch, and is smart enough to appeal both to children and adults. Tom Hanks's Everyman voice is just right for the hero Woody, a cowboy marionette whose position as his owner's favourite toy is threatened by the gung-ho Buzz Lightyear, a flashy action figure (voiced by Tim Allen). Deep inside the story is a parable about belonging and friendship; the surface gleams with visual delights, chases, comedy, thrills and spills.
Odeon Leicester Square (01426 915683).

NIXON (15) Anthony Hopkins never captures Richard Nixon's looks, but Oliver Stone's surprisingly understanding portrait allows him to bring out the man's vices and virtues. The treatment of Nixon's Quaker upbringing and his relationship with his wife Pat (Joan Allen) are absorbing, although Stone forfeits much of his gains by juggling too hard with archive footage and slowing down the pace for a dull final hour about Watergate. Among other impersonations, the best are James Woods' Haldeman and J.T. Walsh's Ehrlichman; the worst is Bob Hoskins's openly gay J. Edgar Hoover.
MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031); **Odeon Haymarket** (01426 915353); **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666); **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332); **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343).

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

THE CHANGING ROOM David Storey's rugby-league play, first staged in 1971, more than merits its place in the Royal Court's season of "classics in the West End". What might at first seem the real action, a crunch match, occurs offstage. And what we see as the players gather before the game, tumble inside at half-time and prepare to go home has an understated, documentary feel. But Storey and James Macdonald's fine cast quietly sketch in lives and relationships, leaving us with a microcosm of a changing world where fulfilment is rare and camaraderie precarious.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; matinées, Thurs and Sat, 3pm, until Sat 30.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND The received wisdom is that — *The Importance of Being Earnest* apart — Oscar Wilde wrote conventional society melodramas spiced up with the odd epigram. Peter Hall's production brilliantly challenges this view, finding a surprising depth not just in the tale of the politician with the nice wife and the killer secret in his past, but in the wit and the banter. Martin Shaw is magnificent as the dandyish but shrewd Oscar-clone, Lord Goring; but then Anna Carteret, Penny Downie, Michael Denison and the rest of a strong cast do full justice to an unobtrusively radical reading.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; matinées, Wed and Sat, 3pm.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

ARABELLA You lose some, you win some. A bit late in the day, the Royal Opera lost both the leads — Amanda Roocroft and Bryn Terfel — in its revival of Strauss's romantic comedy. Both were undertaking their roles for the first time and both apparently thought better of it. The good news is that their replacements are Cheryl Studer, whose silvery soprano is ideal for Strauss's heroine, and the experienced Wolfgang Brendel as her Balkan suitor. Anne Howells, Lillian Watson and Stafford Dean are in support, and the conductor is Mark Elder.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000). Wed 27, 7pm. ◪

WERTHER English Touring Opera's engaging production of Massenet's romantic tragedy reaches Crawley, and is well worth catching for young Geraint Dodd's sensitively sung account of the title role and Christine Botes's warm-voiced, sympathetic Charlotte. Maureen Brathwaite sparkles as Sophie, and Andrew Greenwood happily catches the music's passionate ebb and flow.
The Hawth, Hawth Ave, Crawley, Sussex (01293-553636). Fri 29, 7.30pm. ◪

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

PLEETH AT 80 The Wigmore Hall hosts a very musical birthday party on Friday when William Pleeth, one of the most distinguished of postwar British string-players and teachers, celebrates his 80th birthday. In the cellist's honour his equally distinguished cellist son, Anthony, joins the Brindisi String Quartet and Trevor Pinnock (playing piano) in a programme of Haydn, Mozart and the work perhaps most associated with Pleeth: Schubert's sublime String Quintet in C.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St, London W1 (0171-935 2141), Fri 7.30pm.

TAKEMITSU TRIBUTE Last month, when the Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu died, harsh critics pointed out that he had written all his ground-breaking works early in his life, then tended to repeat the formula with variations. That may be accurate but misses the point: Takemitsu found an exquisite and original way of expressing himself that was contemporary yet beguiling. He was wise to stick with it. Here, the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis plays his *Towards the Sea II*, followed by Mozart's Piano Concerto, K595, (Lars Vogt the soloist) and Vaughan Williams's *Pastoral Symphony*.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Tues 7.30pm.

JAZZ AND CABARET

Clive Davis

ANNIE ROSS/RITA COOLIDGE Closing week for two contrasting chanteuses. Annie Ross's blues and torch songs — many from her new DRG disc, *Music is Forever* — are delivered with all the authority and wit you would expect from so seasoned a performer. Better known for her soft-rock ballads, Rita Coolidge has been dipping her toe into the show-tune repertoire at the Green Room. Amid tributes to Peggy Lee, she finds space for the 1970s hits *The Way You Do The Things You Do* and *We're All Alone*.
Ross: **Pizza On The Park**, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273). Tonight, Mon to Sat 30, 9.15pm and 11.15pm.
Coolidge: **Café Royal**, Regent St, London W1 (0171-437 9090). Tonight, Tue 26 to Sat 30, 9.15pm.

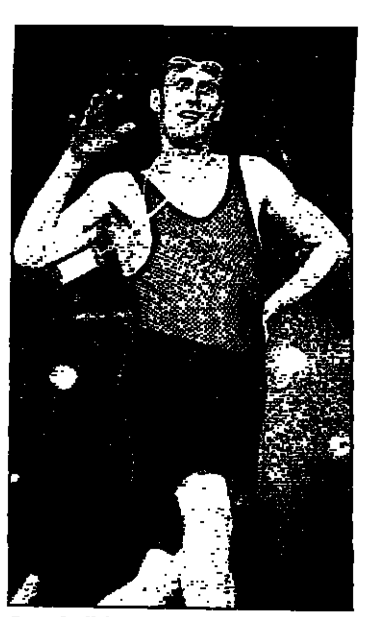
DAVE HOLLAND It was at Ronnie Scott's nearly three decades ago that Dave Holland caught the eye of Miles Davis, who subsequently enticed the young British bass player to America. An elder statesman of the ECM label, Holland has consistently produced challenging and creative small-group music. His latest quartet, which can be heard on the new album *Dream of the Elders*, features saxophonist Eric Person and Steve Nelson on vibraphone and marimba.
Ronnie Scott's Club, Frith St, London W1 (0171-439 0747). Mon 25 to Sat 30, support set from 9.30pm.

ROCK

David Sinclair

MARIANNE FAITHFULL Although she premiered her *Evening in the Weimar Republic* show at the Brooklyn Academy of Music as long ago as 1994, and has toured it throughout Europe, these dates will mark the first time that Marianne Faithfull has performed her special programme of songs by Brecht & Weill on a British stage. Now 49 years old, the wide-eyed, convent-school girl who sang *As Tears Go By* in 1964 has weathered barely imaginable traumas. As a performer she has emerged with a cracked and croaking voice, and a rich fund of spiritual reserves at her disposal. Returns only.
Jazz Café, London NW1 (0171-344 0044). March 25, 26, 27.

BLACK GRAPE They had to cancel an American tour after the authorities declined to issue frontman Shaun Ryder with a visa. They postponed their last British dates when rapper Kermit was hospitalised with a lung infection. And they just missed out on a Brit for Best Newcomer. But you can't keep a band as good as Black Grape down for long, and, with a vocalist called Psycho standing in for the errant Kermit, they are back for another bite of the cherry. Their show remains a unique and irresistible rap'n'roll experience dubbed, on this outing, "The Fat Neck Tour" after a new song which could be their next single.
SECC, Glasgow (0141-248 9999), March 29; **Empress Ballroom**, Blackpool (01253 27786), March 30; **Mayfair**, Newcastle upon Tyne (0191-261 2606), March 31; **Dome**, Doncaster (0115-934 2000), April 2; **Aston Villa Leisure Centre** (0115-934 2000), April 3; **Brighton Centre** (01273 202881), April 4; **Tribal Gathering '96**, Otmoor Park, Beckley, Oxford (0171-344 0044), May 4.



Irresistible: "Bez" of Black Grape

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **1953** Emma Fielding, Jason Isaacs and Adam Kotz play the lead roles in Craig Raine's version of Racine's *Andromache* updated to an imagined Italy ruled by Mussolini's son. An interesting concept that nearly works. Impressive acting.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm ◪

◪ **CHAPTER TWO** Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play unattached New Yorkers whirling towards each other in Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm

☐ **COMPANY** Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

◪ **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)** The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, potty rough-handling of the Bard. *The Complete History of America (abridged)* plays Tues
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1737). Wed-Sat, 8pm. Mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm and Sun, 4pm. ◪

☐ **DISGRACEFULLY YOURS** Richard O'Brien plays the satanic host at Club Inferno: awesomely feeble, with ear-splintering rock songs and dismal rather smutty jokes
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat 6pm and 8.30pm.

☐ **FLESH** Frantic Assembly's new music show: variations on the theme of four young performers offering bodies. Sometimes puzzling but brim full of energy
Warehouse, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (0181-680 4060). Tue, 6.30pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 5pm.

☐ **HARRY AND ME** Sheila Hancock, Ron Cook, Dudley Sutton in new Nigel Williams play, a dark comedy recording the death throes of an appalling chat show. James Macdonald directs.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens March 27, 7pm

■ **LEE EVANS** The rubber-boned stand-up transfers his so-so (excellent in parts) show
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 6pm and 8.30pm. Until Mar 30

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

The Soldier's Song: Sarah Howe and Colin Tarrant

◪ **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT**: Philip Schofield plays the lad with the pretty jacket in a nine-week revival of the first Lloyd Webber/Rice creation.
Labatt's Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith W6 (0171-416 6022). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

◪ **THE MISANTHROPE** Ken Stott and Elizabeth McGovern in an updated version of Molière, too updated for the play's real good but vigorously acted
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm. Final performances. ◪

◪ **MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN** Diana Rigg sturdily moving in title role of Brecht's epic denunciation of war. Jonathan Kent directs a new version by David Hare
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm. Mon, 7.15pm. In rep ◪

◪ **PASSION**: Michael Ball, Maria Friedman and Helen Hobson star in Sondheim's latest musical set in 19th century Italy where a young soldier is torn between his mistress and his colonel's intriguing, isolated cousin. Jeremy Sams directs.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5590). Now previewing 7.45pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Mar 26.

☐ **PRESENT LAUGHTER** Peter Bowles plays Coward's exaggerated self-portrait in an only so-so production.
Aldwych, The Aldwych WC2 (0171-379 3367). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

■ **SKYLIGHT**. Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sat 3pm.

☐ **THE SOLDIER'S SONG**: James Ryder's first play tells of a Belfast family ignorant that their son is an IRA man with a mission. Though he is not a rounded character, there is passion and credibility elsewhere.
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Mar 30, 2pm ◪

◪ **A TALENT TO AMUSE** The words and music of Noël Coward brought to life with skilful, sometimes mischievous charm, by Peter Greenwell, Coward's accompanist for ten years
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **TAP DOGS** Dein Perry's sextet of dancers in working-boots returns to its building-site set. High energy stuff, though some dance aficionados have been unimpressed
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Now Previewing, tonight, 6pm, and 8.45pm; Mon, 8pm. Opens Mar 26

■ **TOMMY** Hugely impressive staging of the traumatised child's apotheosis to pinball wizard. Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ◪

◪ **TRAINSPOTTING**: The current cult show: Irvine Welsh's drug-blasted, foul-tongued Edinburgh no-hopers. Bleakly funny now and then
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735). Tue-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed and Sat 5pm, Sun 4pm

☐ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**: Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Less amazing stage effects here but still delightful
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm ◪

LONG RUNNERS

◪ ***Blood Brothers***: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) . ■ ***Buddy***: Strand (0171-930 8800) . ☐ ***Communicating Doors***. Savoy (0171-836 8888) . . ■ ***Fame: The Musical***. Cambridge (0171-494 5083) ☐ ***Funny Money***: Playhouse (0171-839 4401) . ◪ ***Grease***: Dominion (0171-416 6060) . . . ■ ***Jolson***: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . ☐ ***Mack and Mabel***: Piccadilly (0171-369 1734) ■ ***Oliver!***: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . ■ ***Starlight Express***: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . ■ ***Sunset Boulevard***: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ◪ ***The Woman in Black***. Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

CYCLO (18) Over-forceful portrait of Ho Chi Minh City's urban hell. From the director of *The Scent of Green Papaya*, Tran Anh Hung
MGM Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470)

JEFFREY (18) Should a gay man have sex? Life-affirming comedy falls flat. With Steve Weber and Patrick Stewart. Director, Christopher Ashley
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666)

RHYTHM THIEF (18) Desolate lives on New York's Lower East Side. Energetic but exasperating no-budget movie. Director, Matthew Harrison
Prince Charles (0171-437 8181). Monday only

TOY STORY (PG): See Critics' Choice, above

CURRENT

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **CASINO** (18) Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s: glorious background detail but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

LA CEREMONIE (15): The perfect housemaid gets her revenge on her employers. Absorbing version of Ruth Rendell's *A Judgement in Stone*, with Isabelle Huppert and Sandrine Bonnaire. Director, Claude Chabrol
MGMs: Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148)

FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II (PG): Steve Martin faces the patter of tiny feet. Bland comedy sequel, with Diane Keaton and Kimberly Williams.
MGM Trocadero ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666)

DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS (15) Splendidly atmospheric thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary Joe in late 1940s Los Angeles stumbling over corpses, police and corruption. From Walter Mosley's novel
MGM Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

FRENCH TWIST (18) Jovial French farce with a lesbian angle from writer-director Josiane Balasko, who co-stars with Victoria Abril.
MGMs: Fulham Road ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **GET SHORTY** (15): John Travolta's loanshark takes on the movie business. Entertaining but trivial comedy from Elmore Leonard's novel. Director, Barry Sonnenfeld. With Danny De Vito, Gene Hackman, Rene Russo, Delroy Lindo
Empire ◪ (0171-437 1234) **Gate** ◪ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

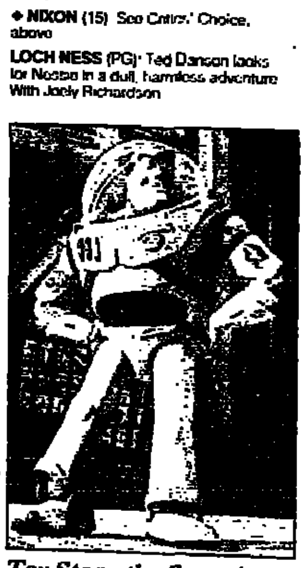
◆ **HEAT** (15): LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Excellent epic crime drama from writer-director, Michael Mann
MGMs: Fulham Road ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **JUMANJI** (PG): Exhilarating romp about a rainforest board game that comes to life. With Robin Williams.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (437 4343)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Stinking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue
MGMs: Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **NIXON** (15) See Critics' Choice, above

LOCH NESS (PG): Ted Danson looks for Nessie in a dull, harmless adventure. With Joely Richardson
MGM Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)



Toy Story, the first wholly computer-created cartoon

OTHELLO (12) Laurence Fishburne as the jealous Moor, Kenneth Branagh as the scheming Iago. Lively version for general audiences. Director, Oliver Parker
Odeon Mezzanine ◪ (01426 915683) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **RESTORATION** (15): Life and loves of a 17th-[illegible]
With Meg Ryan and Sam Neill
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **West End** (01426 915574)

SABRINA (PG) Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Sydney Pollack directs
Plaza (0171-437 1234)

◆ **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY** (U): Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance. Director, Ang Lee
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzons: Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **West End** (0171-369 1722) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** ◪ (0171-435 3366) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

STRANGE DAYS (18): Uncomfortable apocalyptic drama, with Ralph Fiennes as a trafficker in virtual reality. With Angela Bassett. Director, Kathryn Bigelow.
MGM Trocadero ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **TRAINSPOTTING** (18): Abrasive look at junkie life, from Irvine Welsh's novel, made by the *Shallow Grave* team. With Ewan McGregor and Ewen Bremner. Director, Danny Boyle
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

ULYSSES' GAZE (PG): Portentous epic with striking moments from Greek master Theo Angelopoulos, with Harvey Keitel as a film-maker journeying through the Balkans
Renoir (0171-837 9402)

UNDERGROUND (15) Exhausting comic epic about war in the Balkans from Emir Kusturica. The top prizewinner at Cannes last year
Lumiere (0171-836 0691) **MGM Fulham Road** ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Phoenix** (0181-

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Continued from page 1

nothing weirder than that bunny-wunny thing.

Admittedly, the single household person can develop some odd habits when there is nobody around to draw the line. Personally, I talk to myself more or less non-stop. But the biggest danger for the person living alone is not that your selfish wishes drive you into strange compulsions to fill the hall with jam jars or old pennies or something. Rather it's the reverse: that when your own wishes are the only ones consulted, sometimes you find you can't summon any strong enough to make a decision. Domestic loopholes thus widen and deepen until they are veritable mantraps with spikes in. For example, you might ask yourself, in front of a sink full of dirty plates, "Where do I stand on this washing up issue?" and instead of answering, switch the light off and go to bed with a KitKat.

When I first lived alone, I quickly identified the greatest freedom for the single woman: that when things go wrong with the washing machine or the central heating, she can "get a man in". She makes the decision: she consults the *Yellow Pages*: a day or so later a taciturn fellow in overalls turns up with a spanner and sets to. What a relief, not to negotiate this minefield with the boyfriend, who has always fancied himself in a Zanussi boilersuit, and whose ego when he breaks the washing machine has to be handled with extreme delicacy. "Bang. Clink. Oops. How did that happen?" is possibly the most miserable sequence of noises ever heard by cohabiting women, while the worst sight is the room filled with pink brick dust where all-day drilling has failed to result in shelving of any kind.

Actually, I was always happy in couples. I am fairly good at living with other people. I like men generally, and am much less bitter and suspicious than many married women my age. But old Tim Rice got it right when he wrote that deathless line in the hit song *I Know Him So Well* which went, "No one is completely on your side". It's true: we are all alone really, when it boils down to it. The rest is just wishing. I remember the day, years ago, when I found an orange folded plastic thing under the bed on the boyfriend's side and asked him innocently, "What's this?" "It's a smoke hood," he said. "In the event of fire, I can put it over my head and get out of the flat without succumbing to life-threatening fumes." I looked at it, and turned it over in my hands. "Is there just the one?" I wanted to ask, but I knew I couldn't face the inevitable answer. So I put it back under the bed and thought what a profound fellow Tim Rice was, if he did but know it.

So the Mintel people find that by the year 2000, 30 per cent of households in this country will be single-person. Advertisers will take note. The image of the sad person with the TV dinner will be completely overturned, to become a happy person with a TV dinner. As the ads for *Get Shorty* keep telling us, attitude plays a part. One day they will remake *Batman Returns*, and Michelle Pfeiffer will enter that flat again, kick her shoes off and say glumly, "Hi honey. I'm home," and then she'll brighten up. "Oh I forgot!" she'll say, "I'm not married!"

● *Lynne Truss's book about single life,* Making the Cat Laugh *(Hamish Hamilton, £9.99).*

CELEBRITY SINGLES

Madonna
Siân Phillips
Germaine Greer
Sir Cliff Richard
Diane Keaton
Doris Lessing
Muriel Spark
Ted Heath
Jeffrey Bernard
Shirley Conran
Stephen Fry
Barbara Cartland
Gordon Brown
Joan Collins

CHRIS MOORE

Madonna loves the limelight but, at home in America, this material girl is singularly happy alone

Lynne Truss and her feline companion, Buster

MARTIN BEDDALL

Sir Cliff Richard is content to be a bachelor boy

THE BIG SPENDERS

People in single households spend:

☐ 49 per cent more on tobacco
☐ 23 per cent more on cereals
☐ 10 per cent more on bread
☐ 9 per cent more on organic foods
☐ 30 per cent more on fares and travel
☐ 26 per cent more on household services
☐ 36 per cent more on fuel, light and power
☐ 49 per cent more on housing
☐ 21 per cent less on motoring
☐ 23 per cent less on meat

Source: Mintel: Single Person Households: getting younger, richer and happier, £995 *(0171-606 6000)*

Singles with spending power

By the year 2000, the number of people living alone will increase by 1.2 million to 8 million, *according to Mintel's latest survey (see left). This could be good news for any* Chancellor looking for ways to increase consumer spending. Non-retired, single-person households spend 10.5 per cent more than non-retired people living in a two-adult household. The taxman would be happy too. Income from VAT would rise significantly.

The public sector borrowing requirement could be paid off in weeks by the increase in spending on tobacco and alcohol by this new mass of solitary, non-retired people. Each person in a two-adult household buys roughly a packet of cigarettes per week, whereas a person living alone puffs through a packet and a half. They also drink nearly 35 per cent more alcohol than the individual in a two-adult household. Food consumption would only be affected marginally — singles spend 2.1 per cent more than sharers. Non-retired single people may become drunk, cancerous and slightly fatter, but at least we might not be in debt.

These figures apply to those who are not retired. With those who are, the picture is a little different. Solitary pensioners dependent on the state spend £75.67 per week, whereas two similarly dependent pensioners living together spend £72.32 each per week; a difference of 4.6 per cent. The figures for pensioners who do not depend on the state are £142.91 and £118.42; a difference of 20.7 per cent. (Interestingly, the poorer the single pensioner, the more he or she smokes. The solitary state-dependent pensioner spends £2.10 on tobacco, whereas those who are not state dependent spend £1.30.)

The average weekly expenditure for all single-person households (retired and non-retired) is £147.17, and for shared households the figure is £145.56 per person; a difference of £1.61 per person. This means that by 2000, consumer expenditure could increase by just over £100 million a year.

There are non-financial benefits too. With the increase in single-person households, the nation's gardens will be better maintained. In a sample week last year, 67 per cent of singles carried out some form of gardening, whereas only 56 per cent of sharers got their fingers green. We will be a better-read nation as well. Seventy-eight per cent of singles read books for up to one or more hours per week, whereas the figure for those who share was a derisory 65 per cent.

But the increase has its downside. For a start, we will be less fit, because only 54 per cent of singles exercise in a given week, whereas for sharers the figure is 61 per cent. Social security bills may increase. The family is effectively an unpaid social security system, but the state will need to subsidise those who live on their own and are incapable of, say, cleaning.

The predicted increase in the single-householder population will have a huge impact on housing. Thirty per cent of singles live in flats, which means that 360,000 more flats may have to be found by 2000. Twenty-six per cent of singles live in their own terrace house, which means that 312,000 more terrace houses could be occupied by singles by the same year. This may lead to an increase in house prices. An increase in single-person households means an increase in the number of households, which will mean a greater demand for housing.

However, the dearth of suitable properties available for single people may just stop this explosion of wannabe hermits.

GUY WALTERS

Cover image of Greta Garbo by C. S. BULL, The Kobal Collection

21 REASONS TO LIVE ALONE

1 The bathroom is always free.
2 There are no male fingerprints in the moisturiser.
3 Toenails can be clipped while watching television.
4 Permanent nudity.
5 The phone is always for you.
6 There's always some milk left in the fridge.
7 Nobody can moan about the pile of washing-up.
8 "Air guitar" can be played without observation.
9 Books never mysteriously disappear.
10 Housemates and family members who have lost their keys will never ring your doorbell at 2am.
11 Freedom to enjoy playing your own music.
12 Not having to pretend you like your housemate's or spouse's friends.
13 Everything you break is yours.
14 You can change channel as often as you want, to whatever you want.
15 Nobody can see you looking dreadful.
16 Food can be prepared at any time of the night.
17 There are no arguments over phone bills.
18 Car engines can be stripped down in the kitchen.
19 There is no pressure to hold dinner parties.
20 There is nobody to lose the household sticky-tape/scissors/envelopes.
21 The deep, deep peace of the unshared double bed, and the hurly burly of the chaise longue.

SYLVAN MASON

Andrew Daniels and Ruth Gledhill after their marriage was blessed

Ruth Gledhill, the *Times* religion correspondent, is the subject of the column she usually writes each week

Dancing duo defy the trend

The *Times* At Your Service and religion correspondent Ruth Gledhill and Andrew Daniels, a former champion Old Time dancer, have defied the trend discussed above and abandoned single life. They married a month ago, far from cold, damp Britain on the sun-drenched St James' beach in Barbados. With only an Anglican priest present, the couple asked two fellow holidaymakers to be witnesses to the wedding.

But after their Caribbean privacy, the newlyweds wanted a blessing of their marriage back in Britain for family, friends and colleagues. Even after the move of so many famous newspapers from their spiritual home in Fleet Street, the couple chose the Street's traditional journalists' church, St Bride's, for their service.

The Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, officiated and preached at the service. Wearing episcopal cope and gold mitre, he referred in his homily to the couple meeting on the dance floor on Valentine's Day last year. "Ruth and Andrew will be doing their fair share of dancing in their hearts as well as on their feet," he said.

Throughout the service, the Archbishop was assisted by the Rector of St Bride's, Canon John Oates and the father of the bride, the Rev Peter Gledhill.

Fortunately, no big religious news story broke last Saturday because all the national newspaper religion correspondents were at St Bride's, along with other journalists, as well as Andrew's colleagues — "he works in finance" — and other friends, including the two witnesses from Barbados. The congregation was a curious mixture of journalists, dancers, family, clergy and business people.

The couple dedicated themselves to each other after two contrasting readings — Ecclesiastes 2 (a time to mourn and a time to dance) and George Herbert's poem *Love Bade me Welcome*.

Dr Hope blessed the rings as "a sign of our marriage" and the couple promised "all that I have I give to you, all that I am I share with you, within the love of God".

The Archbishop referred to the challenge of faithfulness; that marriage is "truly an awesome vocation and commitment for which daily you will need God's help".

The new bride looked beautiful in a dress which was a clever combination of wedding and ballroom. She and her husband looked ready to launch into a waltz at any moment. They selected two of the most popular, traditional hymns for their service, *Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer* and *Jerusalem*, and two modern songs, *Be Still* and *Amazing Grace*.

The bride's father, a retired priest in the Church of Wales, added a wonderful, personal touch to his daughter's blessing when he offered intercessions in Welsh and the responses in English.

As he burst into Welsh, some of the journalists, wondering at first if he was "speaking in tongues", looked around the church to see if any others were blessed by such gifts of the spirit.

Naomi Hyamson, a sub-editor at *The Times*, sang *Laudamus Te* by Bach as the couple were congratulated in the vestry after the liturgy. Printed on the order of service *Nuntians Quid Novi* (Arr. R Jones) looked a new innovation as a wedding march. In a happy final touch *New York, New York* in "sing something simple" style brought huge smiles to the newly blessed couple and congregation, who then headed off to the reception at the Waldorf Hotel, where the afternoon tea dance was in full swing as guests arrived.

Indeed, the whole day was a joyful celebration of a new beginning — a life shared and a love which flourishes after that first glance on the dance floor.

ROB MARSHALL

● *The Rev Rob Marshall is media adviser to the Archbishop of York.*

● *St Bride's Church, Fleet St, London, EC4Y 8AU (0171-353 1301).*

AT YOUR SERVICE

A five-star guide

RECTOR:
Canon John Oates

ARCHITECTURE:
A Wren gem known as the Wedding Cake church. The congregation face each other in choir stalls. ★★★★

HOMILY:
A challenging charge from the Archbishop of York wishing the couple "good luck in the name of the Lord". ★★★★

MUSIC:
Well-known hymns and anthems, with a final surprise from the Big Apple. ★★★★★

LITURGY:
Despite the presence of an archbishop and several priests (including a chaplain to the Queen), the service was informal. The formal dedication of the couple one to another was the highlight. ★★★★

AFTER SERVICE CARE:
On a Sunday it's juice and coffee at St Bride's. For Ruth and Andrew, the Waldorf. ★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH:
A joyous and memorable occasion. ★★★★★

AN ENTERTAINING OFFER FROM ROYAL DOULTON. 20% OFF* A SELECTED RANGE OF CHINA FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY.

Add to your existing dinner service, or start collecting a new one. Choose from a special selection of Minton, Royal Albert and Royal Doulton fine bone china tableware at greatly reduced prices. From selected department stores and china specialists. *RRP

GARDENING

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q How can I persuade my gloriosa lilies to flower? The tubers increase greatly and are fat and healthy, but all I get are leaves. — R.K.J. Owens, Sherborne, Dorset.

A *Gloriosa rothschildiana* is a climbing member of the lily family and produces twining stems up to 6ft long, with orange-red turk's cap flowers from June to August. I wonder if you are starting the tubers into growth early enough. They should be started in February, with little water but plenty of heat (16C-19C), until they get going. Make sure they get full light, and give them a liquid, high-potash feed (eg. tomato feed) and ample water during active summer growth.

Q Two years ago I was given a morning glory (ipomoea) plant but I am not sure which species it is. It has spread along a south-facing fence but will not flower. Could it be that my neighbour's hedge behind the fence is sapping nourishment from the soil? — Mrs J.M. Edwards, Billericay, Essex.

A There is a puzzle here, which I think only you can sort out. The species of ipomoea we can grow in this country are distinctly tender and often best treated as annuals (some *are* annuals). They are known for their trumpet-shaped flowers similar to bindweed. The mauve or blue ipomoea tricolor is commonest and its sky-blue variety, 'Heavenly Blue', is readily available. Slightly hardier, but with smaller flowers, is the perennial *Ipomoea purpurea*. However, all ipomoeas have heart or arrow-shaped leaves. The leaf you sent me, with seven lobes almost like a horse chestnut, looks suspiciously like a passion flower leaf (*Passiflora caerulea*). You will soon know when it flowers, to which end give it lots of muck and water and pray for good summers.

Q Can you tell me of a lawn-sand dispenser which stops dispensing when you come to a halt? — G.T.C. Woollen, Cobham, Surrey.

A Rotary "cyclone" fertiliser/lawn-sand spreaders have the nasty habit of starting and stopping with an overdose. The knack is to start and stop gradually, so that by the time the forward motion stops and the distributor ceases to spin, it is virtually empty. On small lawns it is a good idea to cover the area twice at half rate, to ensure an even cover. Large lawns are faster done in one go.

Q You mentioned Bordeaux mixture some weeks ago. What exactly is it, and where can I get it? — Sir Robert Atkinson, Winchester, Hampshire.

A Bordeaux mixture is an old-fashioned copper sulphate-based fungicide, which still has its uses against potato blight and fungal diseases in fruit. It is bought as a powder and mixed with water. Vitax sells it through garden centres at £2.22 for 175gm. Be careful using it with metal containers as it can corrode.

● *Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

Stephen Anderton filters out the some of the noise, dirt and lights from passing traffic

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

Best of both worlds: a beautifully screened garden planted with attractive deciduous trees, evergreens and topiary hedge, with a border of phlox and delphinium

Screen test for trees: deciduous or conifer?

There are times when trees have much more important jobs to do than just being part of the scenery. Sometimes they are needed to block a view; and they can be a pleasant form of insulation when the noise, dirt and lights of roads come too close to houses.

While in the Mall in London I was struck by the way in which lines of plane trees partly hide the façade of Carlton House Terrace. The terrace has a glorious, long frontage and such a show is surely meant to be seen. Why not pull out every other tree and let the building breathe and be seen clearly.

But what would it breathe? City muck, no doubt. And I feel sure the people in the terrace would prefer to have the passing traffic remain cocooned in the Mall's tunnel of trees. Happily, plane trees are more tolerant of fumes than we are.

I face the same argument in miniature in my own front garden. A brick-and-flint wall separates the garden from the main road through the village. The house was built in Edwardian days when road traffic was something of a novelty to be admired, and so the house faces the road four-square. Today the traffic is something we just have to put up with.

Houses alongside roads have the choice of shutting themselves off from the view (and the light) with tall conifers. Or they can abandon their front gardens to the car and plant nothing. Or they can, as I hope to do, filter the traffic with screen planting.

I am off to a good start. In a bed on my side of the wall, the previous owners planted a small, flowering cherry and a crab apple either side of a wicket gate to the road. Neither is big enough to block light seriously, nor to make the house look smothered. A crab, however, is not the perfect choice at an entrance, as squelched crab apples tend to travel indoors on people's feet.

Alongside the cherry and crab are a couple of common thorn trees, a cotoneaster, a seedling laburnum and a young Lawson cypress. They are all planted rather too closely together to make specimens with a clean outline. But here what matters is a continuous screen of twigs. With a little judicious thinning of branches, they will co-exist as a screen for many years without getting too tall.

It would be possible to replace some of the deciduous trees with evergreens. More cypresses or laurels, perhaps. But viewed from indoors, a tracery of twigs in winter is much less oppressive than a wall of evergreens. And the cotoneaster is semi-evergreen anyway, so it retains a few leaves right through. Evergreens by roads struggle to look their best. Traffic dust dulls their sheen, and salt spray can damage cypresses. But they do filter noise and light pollution better than deciduous species.

A deciduous screen, however, filters winter winds more efficiently than evergreens. It is the fate of evergreens always to take the full brunt of the wind at all times of year. Close to solid walls and houses, buffeting can cause a permanent outward lean.

So I shall stick with my screen of deciduous small trees, for the sake of traffic insulation. Gardening among their roots will not be easy. The wall under their canopy faces east to the house. I shall lift the lower branches here and there to wall height; so that we can see properly the flint wall underneath. And, instead of the present tangle of unweedable, prostrate cotoneaster underneath the trees, I shall start a bulbery in the rooty shade. First snowdrops and aconites, then chionodoxa and scillas. It will need foliage contrast, and good companions here would be hart's tongue ferns, *Helleborus orientalis*; and *Cyclamen hederifolium*.

At present, the prostrate cotoneaster is sprawling over a gravel mulch. It is not a success. Where the cotoneaster leaves gaps of bare gravel, fallen leaves that are too small to rake off the gravel, gradually rot down into it. Gravel mulches work out in the open but not under the fall-out of trees. Fortunately the gravel covering is not so thick that it cannot be topped off with compost and simply worked into the soil.

With luck it will be moist enough to grow primroses, too. I would like to plant a few different colours and let them seed as they will.

Some years ago I visited a cemetery on the Continent. The grave stones there, many with canopies of painted midnight blue studded with gold and silver stars, had had primroses and polyanthus planted on them over the years. Now there was a whole palette of graded intermediate colours seeding everywhere, even in the paths. It was an unforgettable sight.

WEEKEND TIPS

● *Check greenhouse plants for colonies of aphids as the weather warms up.*

● *Complete preparation of a fine, level tilth on new lawns to be seeded or turfed next month.*

● *Spring cabbages may be dressed with a little sulphate of ammonia to induce leaf growth.*

● *Apply a light dressing of balanced fertiliser to permanent plantings in troughs and sinks.*

Backstage at Newby Hall

One of Britain's leading gardens is busy preparing for the visiting season

Work done through winter, and especially during the next month, is important to any garden, but for Chris Jakeman, the head gardener at Newby Hall in North Yorkshire, it is vital. Newby's gardens extend to 25 acres and have been described as "Hidcote on a grand scale", with a series of interlinking, formal enclosures, a formidable range of plants and an impeccably high standard of maintenance. With the 18th-century house, the gardens attract about 100,000 visitors a year.

Until the gardens open on April 2, March is a period of intense preparation to ensure they are kept healthy and tidy until to closing at the end of September. During the season, Newby is closed only on Mondays (open Bank Holidays), which does not allow for extensive work.

Newby is gardened and managed by its owners, Robin and Jane Compton. They inherited from his father in the 1970s, when the garden was in need of drastic rejuvenation. Mr Compton is president of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) and holds the national collection of cornus at Newby. In 1994, he was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's highest award, the Victoria Medal of Honour. But he is certain that his credentials as a distinguished plantsman would not, alone, ensure the necessary smooth progress from one year to another, as they might in a smaller, private garden.

Planning out-of-season maintenance is important, beginning with a thorough inspection each October. The Comptons, with Mr Jakeman, review the gardens area by area, noting down what will be done through the coming months. Much is annual routine: pruning back trees and shrubs to keep paths clear and reseeding grass worn away by thousands of feet. But it is rare that a winter season goes by without a special project being started.

During the 12 years that Mr Jakeman has been at Newby, sections of the famous 300-yard double border have been completely replanted. The work involved lifting and splitting old clumps of perennials and introducing new plants (carried out during March). At the same time, shrubs that had become too large were removed and the planting returned to being predominantly herbaceous, not a mixture of perennials with shrubs.

This winter the stone balustrading of a bridge has been completely removed. The work was essential after some loose masonry was spotted. The stonework has been repaired where necessary and put back with new mortar to ensure its safety.

When I visited recently, Mr Jakeman, with one of the other four gardeners, was sawing and clearing away the timber and debris from a Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*). They had just felled the tree that had long been a stately feature by the car park. Although not dead, the tree showed sufficient signs of ill health to cause some concern at the prospect of branches dropping without warning.

A. GUEZELIAN

A sculpted feature of the lily pond

The number of visitors makes path maintenance a never-ending job, much of which has to be left until the last weeks before opening. The main paths through the gardens, which total more than a mile, are gravel, as grass is easily worn away. The decisive long-term improvement came recently with the painstaking installation of board edging, which keeps the gravel on the paths and retains a neat grass edge. None the less, gravel has to be replaced each year and this is done as late as possible before opening to minimise the effect of heavy winter rain or snow. It is all worth the effort because nothing gives a worse impression to visitors than paths with bare patches and scuffed verges.

From now until the opening, the priority for Mr Jakeman is mulching the borders — as it is for most gardeners. The difference is one of scale: at Newby four men, with two garden tractors and trailers, work in tandem back and forth out to all parts of the gardens from the mountainous compost heap, where they are loaded by a mechanical digger.

The mulching takes two weeks but events, and the weather, rarely allow this to be uninterrupted. More than any other job, however, it guarantees the ability of a border to sustain healthy plants through to autumn. The compost mixture of garden rubbish and cuttings, leaf mould, farmyard manure and spent straw, provides plant feed, soil improvement and moisture retention on a long-term basis. Come a drought in June or July, Mr Jakeman and his team rarely face acute problems.

As the borders and beds are being mulched, there is similar activity in the long range of glasshouses in the walled garden. Here one gardener is kept busy almost full-time providing new plants. The numbers involved (thousands annually) make it imperative for Newby to be largely self-sufficient in plant stocks. For the next few weeks seed-sowing and growing-on cuttings combines with looking after half-hardy and tender plants that have been brought in for protected overwintering.

Having a range of plants available in large quantities ensures that the gardens are able to offer the level of presentation that will satisfy public scrutiny. It means, for instance, that the inevitable gaps between a group of newly planted young shrubs can be temporarily filled until the plants have matured to spread over their allotted area.

Public safety and presentation are two keys to large gardens attracting sufficient visitors to make the enormous work and cost of their maintenance viable. At Newby nowhere is the safety element better shown than in the "Adventure Garden". Swings, pedal-boats and other children's amusements are integrated into a landscape of grass banks and ponds, and rigorously inspected daily.

The final touch before opening will be cutting the acres of grass, preferably more than once, so that the lawns take on the neatness they will wear for the next six months.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

● *Newby Hall, near Ripon, North Yorkshire (01423 322583). Open April 2 to Sept 29, daily except Mon (open Bank Hols), 11am-5.30pm. £3.80, children £2.50.*

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Property, page 6

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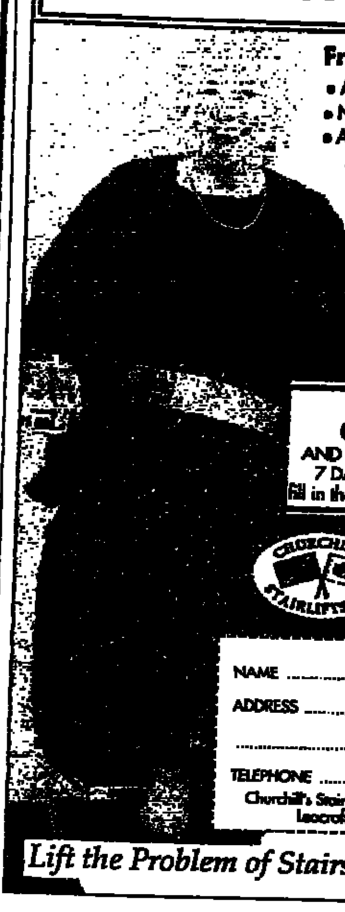

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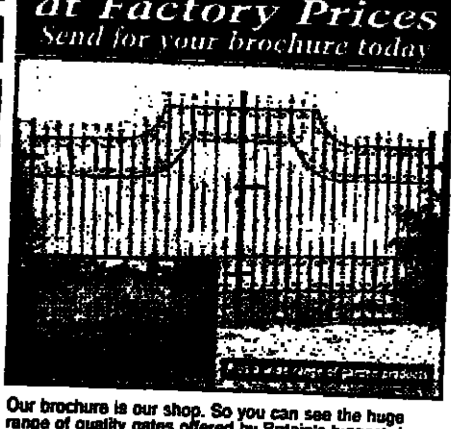

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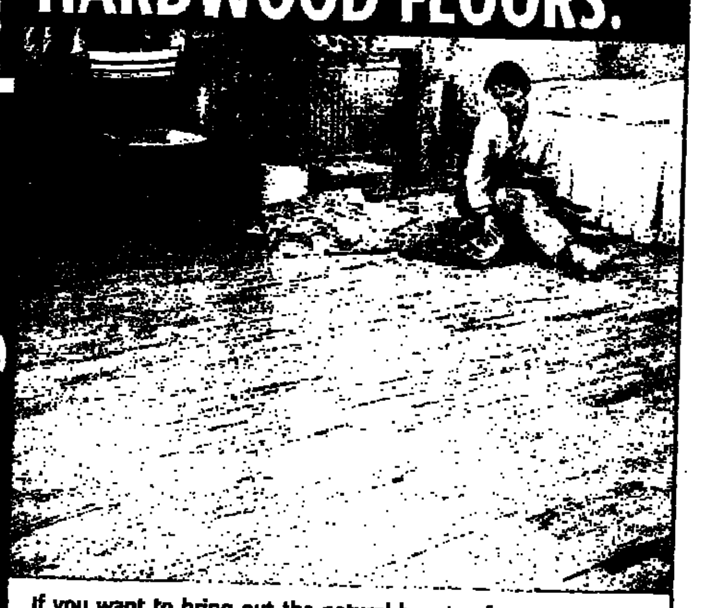

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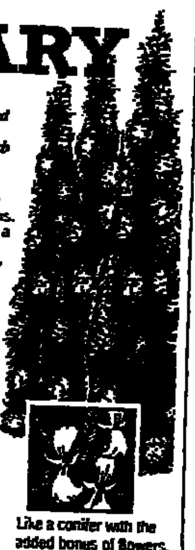

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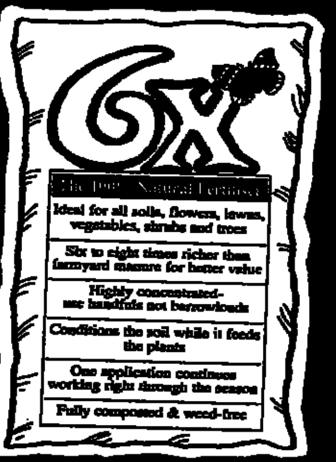

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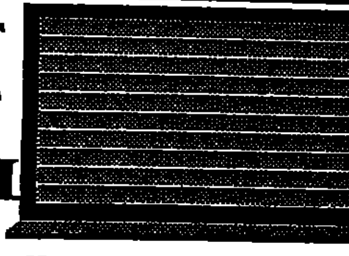

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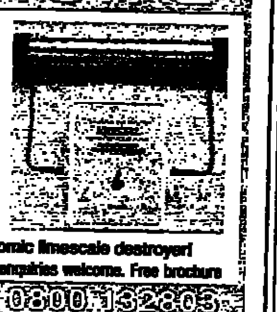

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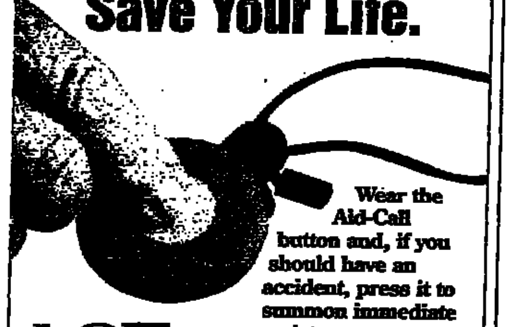

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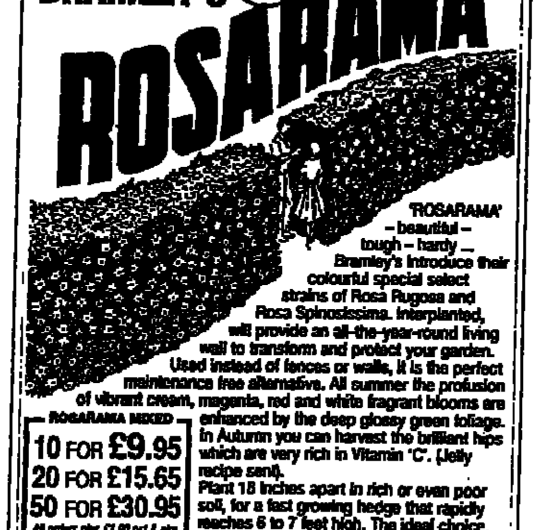

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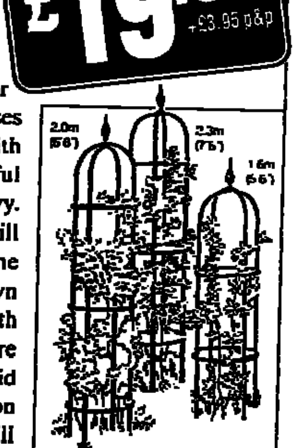

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Spectacular or historic gardens are a strong selling point, but some estate agents say little about less splendid plots

Garden with house attached

There are some gardens that don't need an estate agent's blurb, they sell themselves. Houses with a very special garden, or a link with a distinguished garden designer, such as Gertrude Jekyll, will not be cheap, but will hold their value well and are always in demand.

A prominent or historic garden, well maintained, can add up to 50 per cent to property value, says Patrick Ramsay, of Knight Frank.

About 1,200 parks and gardens, both public and private, are listed Grade I, Grade II or II* by English Heritage, which started its Register of Historic Parks and Gardens for England in 1984. More are added every year, but no garden created less than 30 years ago is considered.

There is no statutory protection for registered gardens, but there is an obligation to consult. Registration is intended to influence local authorities who might be considering applications to build an annex or a swimming pool in a listed garden. It also helps with priorities for aid from English Heritage, which sometimes gives grants for the repair and replanting of historic gardens.

A 17th-century house with a 90ft Grade II listed garden at 100 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, designed in 1909 by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll for Sir Hugh Lane, is for sale at £6.25 million on an 81-year National Trust lease, through the agents Chesterfield and Aylesford.

Built on the site of Sir Thomas More's Chelsea farmhouse, Lindsey House has eight bedrooms and five reception rooms, with views over the Thames. Its present lessee, John Stefanidis, the interior designer, has restored the garden, planting its borders with camellias, lavender and hostas; and covering its walls in vines and rambling roses, in keeping with Jekyll's original planting.

Under the terms of its National Trust lease, the public may view the entrance hall and rear garden, on written application at a time convenient to the lessee.

A more modest National Trust property, the 250-year-old Ashtree Cottage, a quintessentially English three-bedroom thatched cottage at Kilmington in Wiltshire, is available at £200,000 for an 87-year lease through Michael de Pelet and Knight Frank.

When Wendy Lauderdale moved to Ashtree Cottage 12 years ago, the house was derelict and the half-acre garden a rubbish tip. Now both have been restored. The garden, with its lawns, borders planted with delphiniums, phlox, lilies and peonies, and winding pathways beneath a pergola heavy with roses and clematis, attracts nearly 2,000 visitors a year under the National Gardens Scheme.

National Trust leaseholders are responsible for maintenance of the gardens, including paths, walls and replanting, and must inform the trust about intended changes. Any requirement to open to the public would be written into the lease.

In 1910, Gertrude Jekyll designed the gardens at Culmer Farmhouse, a Grade II listed six-bedroom medieval hall house at Wormley in Surrey, which is on the market for £750,000 through Savills.

The four-acre grounds comprise a sunken garden, herbaceous border walk with low box hedging and a kitchen garden. There is also a tennis court, heated swimming pool and a pony paddock.

For the same sort of money, you could buy Kingcombe, a Grade II listed six-bedroom house in 11 acres of garden and grounds at Chipping Campden in the Cotswolds, also on offer through Savills. The former home of Sir Gordon Russell, one of the founders of the Design Centre and its director for 12 years, its four-acre garden was laid out in 1920 by Sir Gordon and his friend Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, who designed the water-trough staircase which flows into a canal at the base of the cherry orchard terrace. The Pink Garden is enclosed by a beech hedge; the Yew Garden has a cobbled path, box hedges and topiary, a pergola and yew boundary; the Victorian Garden has a raised walkway. There is also a moat and a small stone castellated folly.

Or you might like Mardon, a six-bedroom Edwardian house in 33 acres within the Dartmoor National Park, outside the village of Moretonhampstead, which includes a two-acre garden, open to the public since 1989, which has been featured in the *Good Gardens Guide*. Strutt & Parker are looking for offers around £700,000.

A lawn sweeps down from the terrace to a stream. There is also a trout lake and a water garden surrounded by irises, rhododendrons, limes and a tulip tree; mixed borders have camellias, hydrangeas and masses of old-fashioned shrub roses.

For half a century, the owners of Four Ashes, an estate overlooking the Daugleddau Estuary in the Pembroke Coast National Park have created a magnificent shrub garden with more than 1,000 varieties of azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, roses and heathers. It has been open to the public by prior arrangement with the owner under the National Gardens Scheme. Now, the estate, with its six-bedroom house, three cottages, swimming pool complex and ten acres of gardens and woodland running down to the water's edge, is for sale at £650,000 through Jackson, Stops & Staff.

The same agent is asking about £450,000 for Deep End Cottages, three former farm cottages converted into a five-bedroom house, with views over the Bosham Reach of Chichester Harbour to the South Downs. The half an acre garden, laid out in 1976 by John Brookes, the landscape designer and founder of the Clock House School of Garden Design in West Sussex, are mainly lawned, with wild areas planted with spring bulbs. Flower beds and shrubberies are planted with perennials and the lawn is sheltered by eucalyptus, Scots pine and cherry trees.

CHERYL TAYLOR

- *Aylesford 0171-351 2383; Chesterfield 0171-581 5234; Jackson Stops & Staff 0171-589 4536; Michael de Pelet 01935 812236; Savills 0171-499 8644; Strutt & Parker 01392 215631.*
- *Wendy Lauderdale has written a book about the transformation of her Wiltshire garden,* The Garden at Ashtree Cottage *(Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £14.99).*
- *National Gardens Scheme's* Gardens of England and Wales, *£3.50 from bookshops.*

Mardon's two-acre garden in the Dartmoor National Park has been open to the public since 1989 and has featured in the *Good Gardens Guide*

The four-acre garden at Kingcombe was laid out by Sir Gordon Russell, one of the founders of the Design Centre

Reading between the lines

In search of the perfect garden? Stephen Anderton explains what those sales details really mean

Just how do you find a house with a good garden? Estate agents, whose job it is to know about houses, have to be impossibly careful about the descriptions of the houses they sell. Legislation — and the threat of criminal charges — obliges them to be factual and truthful, or to say nothing at all. It must quite take the sport out of salesmanship.

When it comes to describing gardens, about which some estate agents may know next to nothing, they are even cagier. It makes judging whether a house has a good garden exquisitely frustrating. I know. I've just bought one.

With gardens, as with houses, you must learn to read between the lines. Or between the words, as is more frequently the case. For agents say so very little about gardens in their particulars. What they do say is in code. How do you find a sheltered garden for instance?

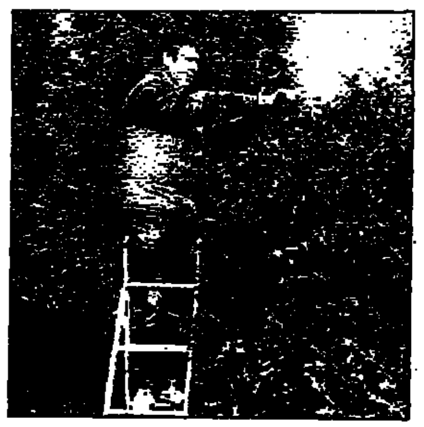
When describing a house, "wealth of beams" are always "exposed", as if the beams are visible not because that was how the house was built, but because of some recent furious DIY adventures. (My own house was, I believe, unique for its "wealth" of stripped doors.) But gardens, however bleak, are never exposed in Essex and Cambridgeshire. Outdoors "exposed" is a dirty word. Instead, the house will "look over open farmland".

If there's a decent chunk of garden between you and the prairies, then the garden "gives onto open farmland". If the strip of garden is so narrow that you are in danger of an agricultural sprayer boom parting your hair as you stand at the basin to shave every morning, then the house is, once again, "looking over open farmland". If you want genuinely attractive distant views, with woods and interesting landform, then you are in the market for a "magnificent" outlook.

One rule of thumb, indoors and out, is that the more unimportant detail is mentioned — the abundance of double sockets, that vital and quite indispensible outside tap — then the less substantial is the property. If the particulars mention an outside tap, put the house to the bottom of the pile.

Though estate agents are not permitted to bend the truth, the camera might still do it for them. If you are looking for somewhere quiet in the country, away from traffic, then beware the wide angle lens. I travelled to see one house only to find that what looked like my new driveway and flowerbeds were a T-junction on the village street and the garden of the house opposite. There was no point going inside.

Relationships to roads are a vexed point. Some people do not mind passing traffic; others go into a rage if a diesel engine comes within 500 yards. So what is a poor estate agent to say? If a house merely has "flower beds to the front", it seems to mean there is just room for a few marigolds before the tarmac and juggernauts start. "Lawned area" means a miserable patch of grass which could, at a push, be part of the "ample off-street parking".



Stephen Anderton in his new garden

The real difficulty about describing a garden is that it is the owner's taste you must describe, just as it would be if you were to describe their soft furnishings or bed linen. It is particularly personal, and an agent has to be careful to offend no one.

As a buyer, it pays to be absolutely frank with an agent about your needs — "no lawn, no flowers, and no work please!" — or "total privacy, shelter, mature trees, at least half an acre, no tarty little ponds and *no* dwarf conifers". In deference to his client, the agent can never say "God, yes, I know what you mean!" but boy, will a tight brief save you some wasted time.

If you want to find a particularly interesting garden, look out for mention of garden structure — the equivalent of indoor rooms — by way of terraces, large hedges, separate lawns, and walls. (Only watch out for "dwarf walls", which can turn out to be a spreading, cancerous form of barbecue.)

The word "mature" has unfortunately to be taken with a pinch of salt. Too often it proclaims a lifeless garden. "Laid to lawn, with mature trees and shrubs" represents a 15-year-old birch and perhaps a cherry, with deadly banks of berberis and potentilla stagnating quietly on the grass. Fine if you want no work, but unpromising for an enthusiast.

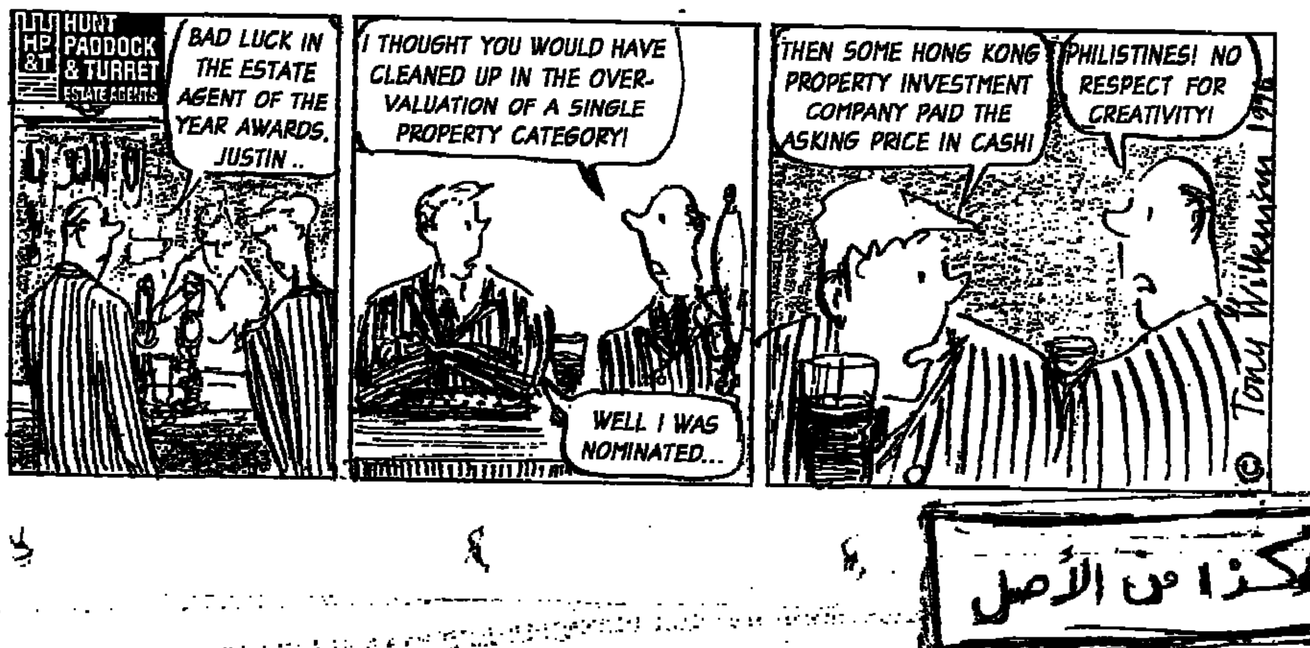
Some magazines, including *Country Life* and *Gardens Illustrated*, have taken to publishing an occasional property page of houses for sale (like those above) with particularly wonderful gardens. So there must be enough people out there with sufficient cash and interest to pounce on one of these complex, designer gardens.

Occasionally you may see a house with a plantsman's garden for sale as a small ad in the back of a specialist horticultural magazine. But most of us are left to ponder the estate agent's blurb and decipher promise among the bare facts.

Paradoxically, agents are the first to admit that an attractive garden sells a house quickly, although an "overstocked garden" can put off people who do not want much maintenance. Well, fine. Give us "heavily stocked" gardens to view, if that is what it takes to find an interesting one.

Just give us something. It cannot help anyone to say so very little. No need for Latin names for sure, but say if there are sheets of daffodils and bluebells, well-maintained and productive apples, pears and a plum (not "mature fruit trees"), climbing roses to the eaves, and a pond full of koi carp. These things all have a value, and it's huge.

The house I didn't get had a wonderful garden and, at the far end under the churchyard wall, was a quince in full fruit. You could smell it from yards away — sweet, spicy and deliciously autumnal. What price a fruiting quince? £10? £1,000? £2,000? Not a word?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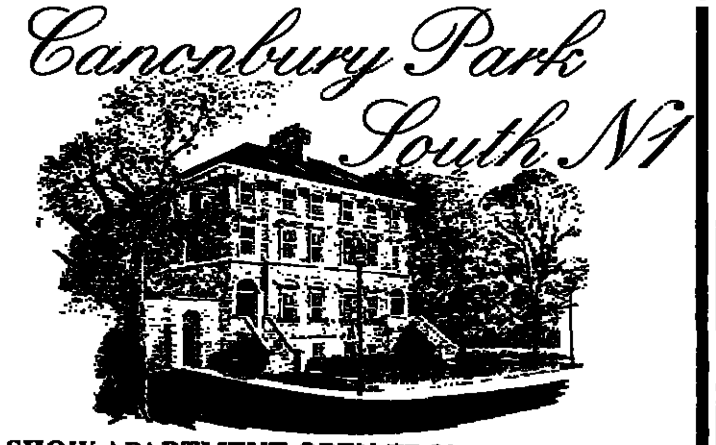

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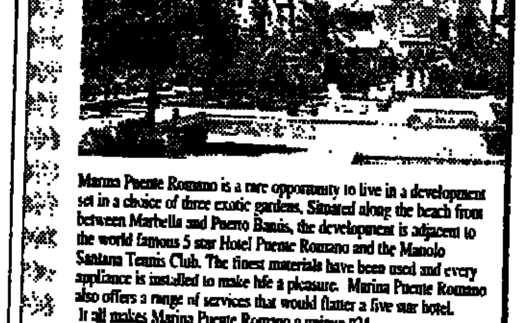

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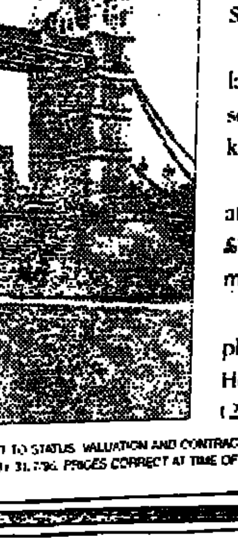

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RECORDINGS

NEW ON CD: Prodigy get physical; Gil Evans close to his best; Handel's "Scottish opera" for the 1990s; tip-top Tippett

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ **MARK KNOPFLER**
Golden Heart
Vertigo/Mercury 514 732★

HE REMAINS the architect of the best-selling British album ever recorded — *Brothers in Arms* by Dire Straits — so you can never count him out completely. But even by the standards of a man who has long made a virtue out of being unfashionable, Mark Knopfler sounds a trifle out of touch on his first solo album, *Golden Heart*.

A collection of sedate rock and love songs, flavoured with discreet Celtic and country-music textures, it is performed with Knopfler's customary ease and consummate fluency. Locating an unlikely point in the no man's land between roots-rock and easy listening where penny whistle meets pedal steel, the opening track, *Darling Pretty*, finds this politest of pickers at his most lugubrious: "There will come a day. Darling Pretty/There will come a day when hearts can fly".

That is as may be, but not for one moment does it look as if this album will fly. As the gruff, barely whispered ballad of *Golden Heart* itself gives way to the soothing shuffle of *No Can Do* and the prim romanticism of *A Night in Summer Long Ago* ("My lady, may I have this dance?"), you find yourself longing for something, anything, to happen.

There are moments when the pulse quickens, as on *Cannibals*, a retooled version of the Dire Straits hit *Walk of Life* with Cajun trimmings. And *Imelda* introduces a heavier guitar sound along with a handful of southern blues licks. (The lyric is about Imelda Marcos's penchant for buying shoes: how current is that?)

But by the time the album reaches its final track, the appropriately titled *Are We in Trouble Now*, with its echoes of the grisly Tom Jones hit *Green Green Grass of Home*, the cumulative effect of so many somnambulant performances has become overpowering.

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ **PRODIGY**
Firestarter
XL Recordings XLS70★★

ONE of the prime movers in hauling the alternative dance movement out of the underground bunker created for it by the rave scene, the Prodigy continue their assault on the charts and the nerves of rock traditionalists alike with their latest single, *Firestarter*.

A racing, twitchy, all-hands-on-deck rhythmic pulse, with a first beat in the bar that lands like a bodyblow, it is spiced up by a siren-wail synth sound and various shrieks that resemble an Art of Noise vocal sample.

Prodigy: hard-hitting

"I'm the firestarter, twisted firestarter," intones the band's MC and dancer, Keith Skint, a man not noted for his talent as a singer, and certainly untroubled by melodic nuances here.

The single-minded mood of urgency is both palpable and utterly gripping, although any aspirations to emotional or intellectual subtlety are completely abandoned in the headlong scramble to stimulate the physical senses.

NEW ON VIDEO: An heroic Scottish warlord, a beautiful Indian princess and a pair of seedy English actors

■ **BRAVEHEART**
FoxGuild, 15, 1995

MEL GIBSON'S medieval epic is vigorous and sometimes exciting. But you need a taste for sliced heads, gouged eyes and impaled chests to survive three hours of bloody battles between William Wallace's rebel army of Scotland and the forces of Edward I. The plot has few subtleties to soften the violence, and the romance with Sophie Marceau's Princess never seems more than a means towards tender close-ups. But if Gibson is your man, you have a feast: sinewy arms, strapping legs, kilt flying in the heather. Available to rent.

■ **CASPER**
CIC, PG, 1995

CASPER the ghost, a cuddly blob who wants to make friends and not scare people, is an exceptionally bland hero. To compensate, the film-makers crowd the screen with a jumbled plot and much computer-generated wizardry. But while ghosts fly left right and centre, it takes a human, Christina Ricci, to generate any emotional appeal in this messy film: she plays the lonely daughter of Bill Pullman's "ghost therapist", sent to exorcise a spooky house. Steven Spielberg is an executive producer, so he probably approved of the echoes of *E.T.* Available to rent.

■ **WINSOR McCAY: ANIMATION LEGEND**
Academy, E

MARVELLOUS compilation tape of the animated films of Winsor McCay, the comic-strip genius of *Little Nemo in Slumberland*, who also made some of the most beguiling and elegant of America's early cartoons. The tape, produced from prints in the Cinémathèque Québecoise, includes *Gertie the Dinosaur* (used in a stage act) and the staggeringly detailed *Sinking of the Lusitania* (1918), which took nearly two years to complete and used 25,000 drawings.

Riding high and handsome: Mel Gibson swings a mean kilt in the role of William Wallace in his vigorous medieval epic, *Braveheart*

■ **WITHNAIL & I**
CIC, 15, 1987

BRUCE ROBINSON'S cult comedy, a quirky memoir of the swinging 1960s' darker side. Richard E. Grant and Paul McGann are the two would-be actors who escape from the fug of their Camden Town flat for a miserable holdiay in the Lake District. Robinson's timing may be erratic, but his dialogue cuts to the quick. McGann's bemused innocent is very appealing, but now more than ever this is Grant's show. His Withnail is outrageously self-centred, an endless fountain of caustic remarks, and his black bile keeps the film alive.

■ **THE TRAIN**
Warner, 1964, PG

LENGTHY but impressive drama about the French Resistance's fight for a trainload of art treasures bound for Nazi Germany. "Smashing up the trains was easy to do — it's every boy's childhood fantasy," said director John Frankenheimer. He realises the fantasy with consummate skill and no noticeable models. With Burt Lancaster, Paul Scofield, and Jeanne Moreau.

■ **POCAHONTAS**
Disney, U, 1995

THIS sanitised version of 17th-century history is something of a backward step for Disney cartoons after the exuberance of *Aladdin* and the narrative power of *The Lion King*. English adventurer Captain John Smith and the Native American girl Pocahontas throb usefully with romantic love, and young audiences should enjoy Miss P's pets, a scampering racoon and a hummingbird. But there is little punch to the tale, and the animation lacks the details that give cartoon characters personality.

GEOFF BROWN

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ **GIL EVANS**
Out of the Cool
Impulse! IMP-11862★★★

A TIMELY arrival. In the same month that Guy Barker and Lew Soloff joined forces with the London Sinfonietta for a rare concert performance of *Sketches of Spain* and *Miles Ahead*, the Impulse reissue programme alights upon another of Gil Evans's enduring achievements.

The spare phrasing of Johnny Coles's trumpet forms an oddly unsettling presence throughout these orchestral arrangments, as if Evans were challenging himself to surpass the heights of the earlier Columbia sessions. His writing for ensemble is even more subtle and impressionistic.

Nothing in Evans's post-*Sketches* output matched the delicacy of his setting of *The Barbara Song* — recorded in 1964 for *The Individualism of Gil Evans* — but the writing here on another Kurt Weill composition, *Bilbao Song*, comes close. The undervalued Mingus trombonist, Jimmy Knepper, takes centre-stage on *Where Flamingos Fly*, suspended over a skeletal frame. Horace Silver's *Sister Sadie* — inexplicably omitted from the earlier CD reissue — closes the disc with what is, in Evans's own terms, a rare flag-waver, joyfully dispatched.

20TH CENTURY

Barry Millington

■ **MEETING POINT: NYMAN/TORKE/HEATH etc**
Saxophone Concertos
McChrystal/London Musici/Stephenson
Silva Classics SILKD 6010★★

ON THE face of it, this appears to be that rare commodity: a saxophone disc without John Harle. In fact, Harle's spirit hovers over it nonetheless: Gerard McChrystal has been closely associated with Harle, and both Michael Nyman's *Where the Bee Dances* and Michael Torke's Saxophone Concerto were written for Harle.

The former piece features the kind of frenetic activity that the title implies, together with other Nyman hallmarks such as crude, muddy scoring and mesmerising repetitions.

The Torke Concerto, while not one of his best works, has both a feeling for instrumental colour (vibraphones and marimbas) and a certain sophistication of structure. The middle movement is idyllically pastoral or lamentably saccharine, according to taste.

The other substantial work on the disc is *The Celtic* by D. C. (better known as Dave) Heath. It is effectively a three-movement concerto, Scottish in inspiration and in places quite evocative.

Nyman: usual hallmarks

McChrystal, who plays with both lyrical sensitivity and energy, is less inclined to vulgarise this kind of music than Harle, and the London Musici under Mark Stephenson provide animated support. If you like this sort of thing, this is a disc that can be safely recommended.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ **HANDEL**
Ariodante
Gondek/Saffer/Hunt/Lane/Müller/Cavallier/Freiburg Baroque Orchestra/McGegan
Harmonia Mundi HMU 907146-8 (3 CDs)★★

HANDEL'S "Scottish opera" has become reasonably well known through the David Alden staging, shared between the Welsh National and English National Operas. It is due back at the Coliseum in May with Ann Murray in the title role. There is also the 1980 Philips recording under Raymond Leppard — with Janet Baker as Ariodante and Samuel Ramey, no less, in the modest and dullish part of the Highland King — which was reissued on CD a couple of years ago.

Nicholas McGegan's version for Harmonia Mundi is very much Handel in mid-1990s style, crisp and at times aggressive, using a small orchestra and young singers, and very refreshing it is too. This recording was made at last June's Handel Festival in Göttingen.

Ariodante carries much of the vocal weight of an opera that runs to more than three hours. He (or the lead mezzo) has the best arias, and the longest ones, as he sees his beloved Princess Ginevra snatched from him through disguise and deception before all is resolved in the grand hall of the royal Scottish palace and virtue is declared triumphant. Lorraine Hunt has plenty of colour at her command as happiness descends to despair in Act II, notably in *Scherza infida*, a massive and demanding piece. She lacks nothing in agility and freshness: a young lover to match the Handel young lover's music.

Hunt also blends creamily with Juliana Gondek's bright and occasionally brittle soprano as Ginevra in their final ecstatic duet of reunion. Very classy singing.

The Freiburg players come over as a very accomplished ensemble and they get a chance to show off under McGegan in the ballets which close each act.

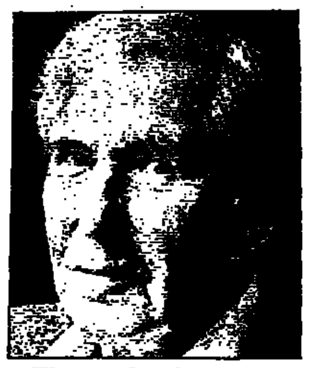
CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

■ **TIPPETT**
The String Quartets
Lindsay Quartet
ASV CD DCS 231★★★

THE LINDSAYS, according to Sir Michael Tippett, are "the best friends a composer could have". He has worked closely with them on his first three string quartets ever since their earliest Bath Festival days. And here these works, central to the late 20th-century quartet repertoire, are released in a new two-CD set with the world premiere recordings of the Fourth and Fifth Quartets.

The Fourth (1977-78), with its cycle from a troubled birth to a raging death, marked Tippett's return to quartet writing after 30 years. The Fifth Quartet (1990-91) recalls the great Hymn of Thanksgiving in Beethoven's Op 132 Quartet in the second of its newly refined movements. These vibrant explorative performances come with illuminating notes by Meirion Bowen.


Tippett: Beethovenian

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

Long and Short of popular song

Clive Davis meets the venerable custodian of the best of Tin Pan Alley and Broadway

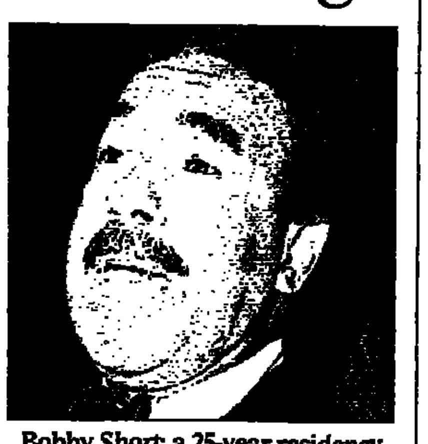
Nestling on his sofa in his immaculately furnished apartment, Bobby Short reflects on the subtle art of cultivating an audience. Saloon singers need to know about these things because, by the very nature of their work, they do not usually fill stadiums. As Short says, "I'm still not playing Madison Square Garden, as you can see."

For that we should be grateful: a small venue is the place to savour his wit and style. For half a century or more he has been a curator of popular song, a debonair interpreter of the best of Broadway and Tin Pan Alley. The doyen of New York cabaret artists, he has used his extraordinary, quarter-century residency at the ritzy Café Carlyle to champion not just the Cole Porter songs that everyone knows, but the obscure yet no less interesting numbers that, in the age of Snoop Doggy Dogg, might otherwise be lost for ever.

When Woody Allen was looking for a song to accompany the credits on *Manhattan Murder Mystery*, his choice alighted on Short's recording of Cole Porter's *I Happen to Like New York*. The topography of the singer's favourite city also provides the theme of his vibrant new album, recorded live at the Carlyle with a superb swing band featuring cornetist Warren Vaché. *Songs of New York* (Telarc CD-83346) throws together a cocktail of famous standards — among them the aforementioned *Manhattan* and *Autumn in New York* — as well as curiosities such as *Way Out West on West End Avenue*.

Short's career almost foundered in the 1960s, when, like so many of his peers, he found himself displaced by the Beatles and the pop revolution. The Carlyle residency, which began with a two-week stint in 1968, was to transform his life, making him a wealthy man in the process. But, having grown up poor and black in Illinois, he has never lost the instinct to, as he puts it, "keep an extra chicken in the refrigerator".

"The situation is a little better than it was in the 1960s. But the life of cabaret is a sad story these days. In the old days Lena Horne would do eight weeks at the Empire Room, then she'd take a month off and work four weeks in Las Vegas, two weeks in Miami. Then she could do the theatres. It was a career. There's no more career of that nature."


Bobby Short: a 25-year residency

Still, he does not give the impression of succumbing to melancholia. The dominant tone of his conversation — and of his two volumes of autobiography — is one of defiant *joie de vivre*. There is always the next show to think of: and one day, he says, he might even learn to read music properly. If he fails, well, he can always comfort himself with the advice of another non-reader, his friend, Erroll Garner: "Man, who in hell's gonna hear you read!"

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Burnside Park	Cumbria	August	1	High	4	2950
Pueblo Laguna II	Almeria	Jul/Aug	3	High	6	1700
C.P.V. at Torre Oceano	Costa Del Sol	Sept	2	High	6	1595
Regency Palms	Costa Del Sol	April	2	Mid	6	995
C.P.V. at Lubina Sol	Costa Del Sol	April	1	Mid	4	895
El Porton	Costa Del Sol	October	1	High	6	1295
Harbour/Duquesa	Costa Del Sol	Sept	1	High	4	895
Portobelo	Algarve	May/Oct	4	High	4	1150
Alto Lido	Madeira	March	2	High	4	1675
Marina Del Sol	Costa Del Sol	July	2	High	6	1995
Spa's at Resort World	Orlando	Sept	1	High	8	1695
Clearwater Beach	Florida	July	1	High	6	1695
Barratt Villacana	Costa Del Sol	August	2	High	6	2950
Wimpey Las Brisas	Lanzarote	October	2	High	4	1995
Devoncourt	Exmouth	October	1	High	6	2250
Hollywood Mirage	Tenerife	August	1	High	4	1995
Barratt Dona Lola	Costa Del Sol	Jun	1	High	4	1495
Lanzarote Beach Club	Lanzarote	March	1	High	4	1395
Barratt Dalfaber	Aviemore	October	1	High	8	2850
Barratt Loch Rannoch	Scotland	October	1	High	4	1795
Barratt Forest Hills	Scotland	Sept	1	High	4	2950
Madeira Beach Club	Madeira	May	1	High	6	3250
La Grand Mare	Guernsey	Sept	1	High	6	2850
Barratt Dona Lola	Costa Del Sol	June	2	High	8	2950
Los Rosas	Tenerife	May	4	Mid	6	1650
Tenerife Sun Club	Tenerife	October	2	High	6	995
Island Village	Tenerife	May/June	2	High	4	1495
Club Flamingo Village	Tenerife	August	1	High	4	1395
Laugharne Park	South Wales	May	1	High	6	2495
CTM Vista Serena	Gran Canaria	Xmas/N.Yr.	2	High	4	1995
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EARLSFIELD Charming unfurn, ground floor, 1 bed flat with garden, avail now £145pw Courtenay 0171 228 9911.

FROGNAL NW3 Lovely 2 bed p/b blk, balcony, pkg, large lounge £270pw 0171 794 0193

FULHAM SW6, exceptionally spacious 1 bed s.facing gdn flat, f.f. equip, suit prof couple. £210pw 01234 824262

FULHAM Unfurn, 4 bed, 3 bath, dble recep, kit/diner, clse tube £495 pw 0171 602 3386

FULHAM SW6. 4 bed lux town house, gge, gdn, pkg, gch. £490pw f/f 0181 742 7294.

KENSINGTON SW7 Gdn. Sq. s/c lge lux dbl. bed flat Short let. Nr tube £280 pw 0171 373 9034

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هكذا من الأصل

THIS SPRING YOU CAN TAKE UP TO TWO CHILDREN FREE TO ANY OF EIGHT TUSSAUDS GROUP ATTRACTIONS

Two children go FREE on a Tussauds day out — save up to £26

The Times and The Tussauds Group are offering readers the chance to take two children free to any one of eight Tussauds attractions throughout April and May, saving up to £26.

There are white-knuckle rides and haunted woodlands, ice skating shows and circuses, a grisly Chamber of Horrors and an adventure into space, simulated rock concerts and medieval pageants. Everything that will keep children happy and entertained is on offer here and at two theme parks in Spain and Holland.

The Runaway Mine Train, at Chessington, is set in the Wild West and has no driver and no brakes — just lots of fun for both adults and children

CHESSINGTON WORLD OF ADVENTURES
SAVE £26
The theme park reopens today for another season of fun, thrills and excitement for all the family. The park was originally Chessington Zoo until an £18 million refit turned it into one of the South's leading outdoor leisure attractions. Rare and endangered species, such as snow leopards and Sumatran tigers, can be seen in landscaped enclosures reflecting their natural habitat.

There is a new circus, a Hänsel and Gretel-style land for toddlers, a Vampire rollercoaster and, set in a wild western Calamity Canyon, the Runaway Mine Train, an exhilarating Dragon River water ride and the disorientating Rameses Revenge, the only ride in the UK with a three way fear factor of height, speed and water which suspends the brave over water fountains for up to ten seconds.

Children love the thrill of getting soaked as they hurtle along the Congo River Rapids at Alton Towers

Prices: Adult £16.50 Child (under 15) £13.00
Open: 10am-5pm (until 9.30pm July 20-Sept 1)
Visitor info: 01372 727227
12 miles from London on A243, 2 miles from A3 and M25 junction 9 in Surrey

ALTON TOWERS
SAVE £26
This theme park won an award last year for being the most parent friendly. It has more than 125 rides from the Force 9 gale of the Energizer to the 0-60 mph power of the Thunderlooper.

There is also Storybook Land with Squirrel Nutty and his acorn tree top ride and the Bookworm, an animated storytelling character.

Just open is the Alton Towers Hotel where there are rooms full of magic and wonders like a 37ft high Jules Verne style flying machine, a Fizzy Factory and Chocolate Factory which never run out of the children's favourite goodies.

Prices: Adult £17
Child (under 14) £13
Open: 9am to dusk
Visitor info: 0990-204060
From North: M6 junction 16 or M1 junction 28. From South: M6 junction 15 or M1 junction 23A in Staffordshire

MADAME TUSSAUD'S
SAVE £11.50
Madame Tussaud's is one of the capital's most popular visitor attractions. The Chamber of Horrors, revamped with a £1 million investment, has authentic sound and visual effects, life like figures and realistic settings to illustrate macabre murders from the French Revolution to the present day. New arrivals such as Pierce Brosnan, left, join the famous waxworks and the Spirit of London recreates scenes from the 1660 Great Fire to today.

The latest James Bond waxwork at Madame Tussaud's

Prices: Adult £8.75 Child (under 16) £5.75
Open: 10am-5.30pm.
Visitor info: 0171-935 6861
Tube Station: Baker Street.

LONDON PLANETARIUM
SAVE £7.20
A popular visitor attraction for nearly 40 years, the London Planetarium has the most advanced star projector in the world — Digistar II.

Space enthusiasts can enjoy interactive videos and watch a spectacular show which starts with sunrise over Stonehenge, moves on past distant galaxies and even travels down the optic nerve of the human eye to show how our perception of the universe has changed.

With the naked eye we can see a maximum of 2,000 stars but Digistar II can project images of 9,000 stars.

Prices: Adult: £5.45
Child (under 16, not recommended for under fives) £3.60
Show times: 12.20-5pm (every 40 minutes).
Visitor info: 0171-935 6861
Tube station: Baker Street for Marylebone Road

WARWICK CASTLE
SAVE £10.50
Fortified by William the Conqueror in 1068 and with gardens landscaped by Capability Brown, children love to explore the dungeon, or climb up to the towers and ramparts of this magnificent medieval castle.

Through a combination of special effects, children can experience the sights, smells and sounds of a household as it gets ready for a bloody war and they can experience, through the simulated historical story, the ruthless Richard Neville's plans in Kingmaker — A Preparation for Battle.

Prices: Adult £8.75 Child (under 17) £5.25
Open: 10am-6pm
Visitor Info: 01926 406600
M40 Junction 15, Warwick, Warwickshire

ROCK CIRCUS
SAVE £11.90
Visitors are taken through a celebration of thirty years of pop and rock using audio-animatronic technology. The Music Revolution Theatre, the largest revolving auditorium in Europe, is possibly the only place to see the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen and David Bowie perform together. Each visitor has a personal headset activated by infra-red beams.

Prices: Adult £7.50
Child (Under 16) £5.95
Open: S/M/W/Th 11am-9pm
Fri/Sat 11am-10pm
Tues 12-9pm
Visitor info: 0171-734 7203
Tube station: Piccadilly Circus or Leicester Square.

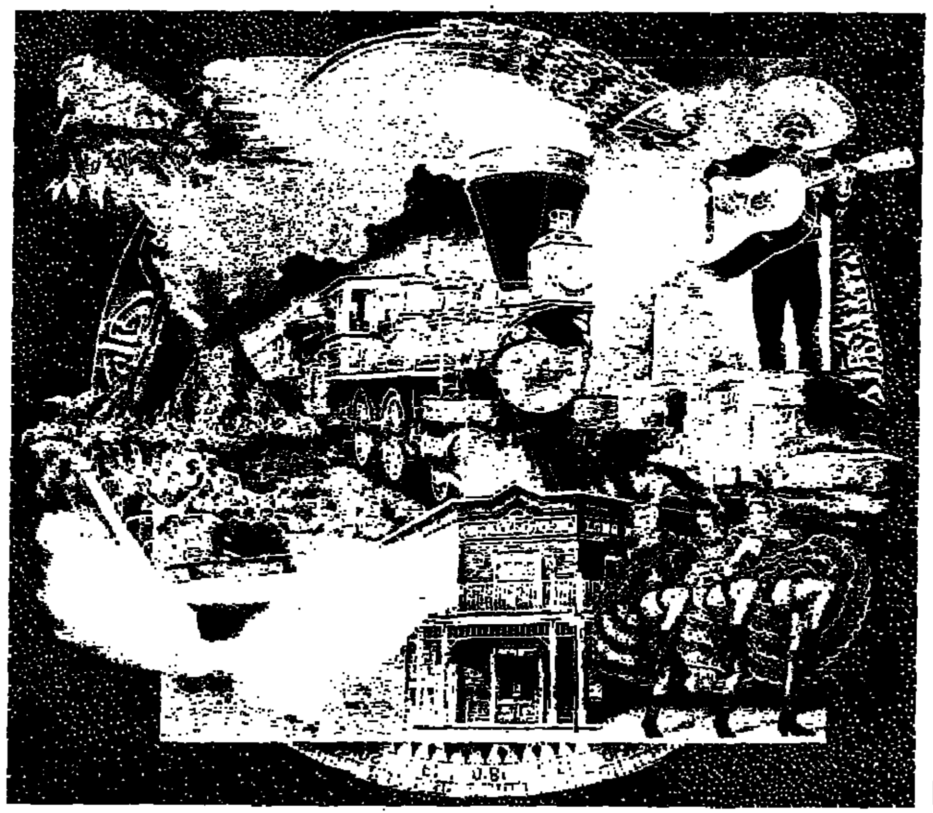
PORT AVENTURA, SPAIN
SAVE £32
Live shows in air conditioned theatres include acrobats from Peking and a Mexican dance troupe. Also one of Europe's scariest rollercoasters, Dragon Khan, which turns its riders upside down eight times during the three-minute ride at up to 70 mph.

Prices: Adult £19.50
Child (under 13) £16
Night tickets £12.50 and £9
Open: 10am-8pm (until midnight high season)
Visitor info: 0800-96 65 40
Salou, south of Barcelona

At Warwick Castle children can play soldiers in real armour

MADAME TUSSAUD SCENERAMA, HOLLAND
SAVE £12
A celebration of Holland's 17th century Golden Age. Themes of everyday life, some based on works by Dutch masters Rembrandt and Vermeer, are enhanced with sound, light and special effects.

Dam Square, Amsterdam.
Prices: Adult £7.50
Child (under 15) £6
Opens: 10am-5.30pm every day, including Christmas Day
Visitor information: 003120 6229239.



When the sun and sand in Spain get too much you can take the children to Port Aventura

HOW TO APPLY

Collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven we will print in *The Times* and attach them to the voucher (right).

One token is already attached. More will appear every day until the final one next Saturday, March 30, 1996.

Complete the details on the voucher and present it at the ticket office at the attraction you decide to visit.

You will be entitled to up to two free child entries per party when paying one full adult admission.

The voucher can only be used for one visit to any one attraction.

OFFER CONDITIONS

1. The offer is valid for two children free when accompanied by one paying adult.
2. The offer applies from March 30 to May 31 1996 inclusive.
3. One voucher per household.
4. Any additional visitors in your party, children or adults, must pay the full admission prices.
5. Vouchers must be accompanied by four Times/Tussauds tokens.
6. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.
7. Vouchers must be cut from *The Times*. No photocopied vouchers or tokens will be accepted.
8. Please note height restrictions apply on certain rides at the three theme parks.
9. This offer is only valid for a single day rate at any of the three theme parks.

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2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week? ☐
3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week? ☐
4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)? ☐

This voucher, with four Times/Tussauds Group tokens attached, entitles the bearer to free entry for up to two children, when accompanied by one paying adult to any one of the following attractions: Madame Tussaud's, The London Planetarium, Rock Circus, Warwick Castle, Scenerama, Alton Towers, Chessington World of Adventures and Port Aventura. Offer valid from March 30 to May 31 inclusive and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

THE TIMES
The TUSSAUDS Group
TOKEN ONE

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True-life detective adventures belong on the mean streets and down dark alleys, not on the Internet, says **John Diamond**

Sick of the cybersleuths

IMAGINE: it is 1922 and the BBC has just opened up for business. Radio is the coming thing: the papers have all started radio supplements with radio know-alls rating the newest sets and listing the best new stations. And all over the world bookshops have started filling their shelves with radio manuals which promise to help timid radio virgins to jump on this new bandwagon. Publishers believe that radio is where the money is and so they look for new ways to sell radio books.

The answer? True-life radio crime. There are books about granite-chinned radio repairmen mixing it with evil valve-counterfeiters. There are books about rugged broadcast detectives who will leap onto a plane at a moment's notice to scout out illegal radio stations. There are books about dinner-jacketed young aristocrats taking on the Commies who are trying to jam the radio stations of the free world.

An unlikely hypothesis? Well certainly the radio craze of the 1920s did not produce such literary thief-takers. So why do publishers today believe that there is such demand for their Internet equivalents?

■ TAKEDOWN
By Tsutomu Shimomura
Secker & Warburg, £9.99

The genre started in 1990 with Clifford Stoll's *Cuckoo's Egg*, the excellently told story of how Stoll tracked a hacker of military secrets, and that is where it should have stopped. But each season since has brought a new clutch of heroic tales of men who dash fearlessly about the Internet dishing it with the punks who steal the Net's secrets.

Shimomura's is the latest and the most risible. It is not that I am ungrateful: I am only too pleased that this scientific prodigy was able to set up the routines which caught Kevin Mitnick, stealer of mobile-telephone software and Internet passwords or, as the book has it, "the world's most notorious cybercriminal". I am, after all, a mobile-telephone owner and an Internet user and recognise that the Mitniks of this world spoil it for the rest of us.

But I cannot bring myself to be excited by the minutiae of the hunt even when those banal technical details are recounted in a breathless parody of a police procedural novel. And I certainly cannot be convinced that the details of Shimomura's hobbies — in-line skating and cross-country skiing — add to the excitement any more that does a sub-plot about the wooing of his girlfriend.

Happily there is a simplified version of the book — and one which, with its pictures and full audio details, really does give a sense of the excitement the reader is meant to feel. It is written by Shimomura and is available — free — on the Web: http://www.takedown.com/.

Reconditioned Austen in good running order

EMMA TENNANT has made a deserved success out of her sequels to Jane Austen. In *Pemberley* and *An Unequal Marriage* she revealed undreamt-of pitfalls in the careers of the Bennet sisters just when we thought *Pride and Prejudice* had them settled down nicely. Now it is the turn of *Sense and Sensibility*.

Aside from their romantic and financial anxieties, the Dashwood girls could be said to have led rather quiet lives in Austen's original. A sprained ankle or an unexpected visitor could be moments of high drama. The novel is long on reflection and evenings round the piano, and on the whole rather short on corpses and chicanery. But now that the sisters have been lionised by Hollywood, it was probably inevitable that their subsequent adventures should involve mothers-in-law performing Spanish fandangos on dinner tables, free-love communes of guitar-playing vegetarians and cannibalism in darkest Africa.

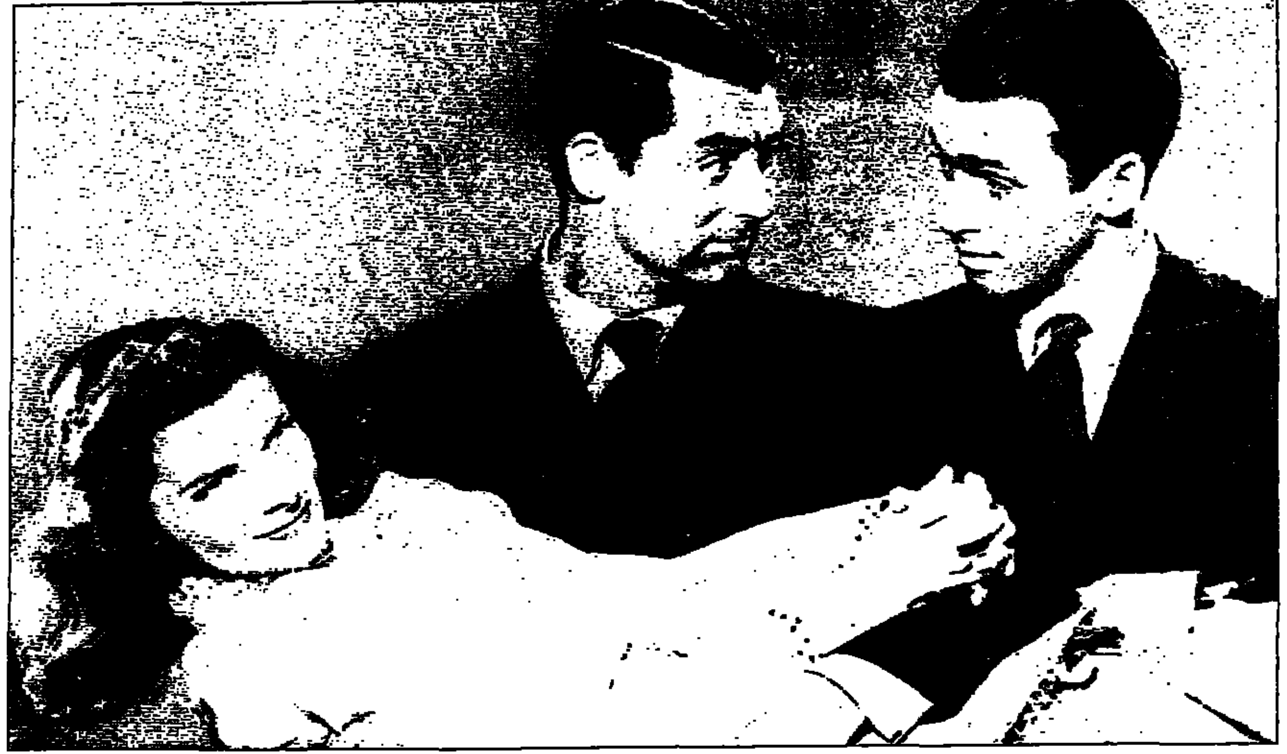
■ ELINOR AND MARIANNE
By Emma Tennant
Simon & Schuster, £9.99

Restraint may have gone by the board in the plot development, but Tennant retains her gift for capturing Austen's tone and humour, and there is a mad logic to the wildest turn of events. The hints are all there in the original. Tennant simply lets them run.

Austen's happy denouement is shown to be a fragile one. Colonel Brandon, her only truly *sensible* character in the modern sense of the word, is promptly packed off on an errand to Wales where he remains for the duration of the story. Without his calming influence, Elinor's excess of restraint and Marianne's total lack of it prove completely unequal to fending off their rapacious in-laws and coping with the return of the scoundrel Willoughby. Everything goes hilariously to pot.

Elinor and Marianne, like *Sense and Sensibility* in its first version, is written in the form of letters. It is not an easy form to get into, and perhaps a dramatis personae would have saved us from the clumsy references to "our half-brother John and his wife, Fanny". But the telling is skilful and elegant, and much entertainment is to be had.

ROSE WILD



Guys and a doll: Katharine Hepburn stars with Cary Grant and James Stewart in George Cukor's comedy *The Philadelphia Story* — from *Katharine Hepburn, An Independent Woman* by Ronald Bergen (Bloomsbury, £20)

Just the ticket for the nomadic bookworm

Any colour as long as it's local — a catalogue of travel reading that includes every genre of writing

HAVING founded the first dedicated travel bookshop in London, Sarah Anderson has now done us another good turn by compiling the first resource menu of English-language travel titles. Her known passion for the subject does not come through in her generally neutral style, so inclusion must mean tacit approval.

Even travel professionals, who most often seem liable to get lost, should easily find their way around. The basic divisions are by continent, then alphabetically by country. Three separate indexes locate authors, titles and places. Works in print (when it went to press) get a tick.

Furthermore, in tune with the practice of specialist shops in recent years, she layers in many more that never knew they were travel books — novels, history, etc — but now have their exotic side stressed. See Naples and not only read Craufurd Tait Ramage's *Nooks and Byways of Italy* (1868) but Yourcenar's *Anna, Soror*, a tale of incestuous Neapolitan passion.

■ ANDERSON'S TRAVEL COMPANION
By Sarah Anderson
Scolar Press, £39.50

The difficulty with this catholic approach, nice for browsers, is that the world is not a small place: the fiction, travelogues, politics, sociology and guides cannot all bed down in 550 pages. The jacket puff by Geoffrey Moorhouse calls it "exhaustive", but it is not. It could not be. For example: the China quota is 120 titles, quite enough to ballast a journey, but only a fraction of the 2,000 housed in the China Club in Hong Kong.

In harmony: the San Carlo Opera House in Naples

The stream of fiction makes an estuary that leads to the open sea. It is irresistible to include certain imaginary travel stories, so she chooses *Robinson Crusoe* and *Lost Horizon* (why not, then, *Gulliver's Travels* and *20,000 Leagues under the Sea*?). But fiction that happens merely to have a strong local flavour, however tasty, such as a science-fiction work on post-holocaust Labrador, is usurping space.

It leads to curious anomalies, such as the presence of Golding's splendid novel *The Spire* and the absence of his *Egyptian Journal*, a lesser work but all about his travel down the Nile on a felucca.

Checking my own shelves, I see that of the first 50 titles she includes 28. But I do not feel she has missed many great reads. Lord Byron is worth a better show, and his friend Hobhouse a mention. Eric Newby appears *passim*, but not my favourite, *The Last Grain Race*. The Huxley clan is there in force, but not anthropologist Francis Huxley, author of *The Affable Savages* and of a good work on voodoo, researched in Haiti roughly when Greene was absorbing material for *The Comedians*.

Anderson invites suggestions for future editions — a regular event, I hope.

ALEX HAMILTON

A doctorate in despair

ONE OF the many diverting *minor characters in The House Guest* is a very small, very straightforward woman called Shara, whom the hero, Robin Dromgoole, likes so much that when he sees her he thinks, "Good. There's Shara. Good." The sighting of a new book by Barbara Anderson has the same effect on her growing number of admirers.

The House Guest is part literary quest, part voyage of discovery: in some ways not dissimilar to Carol Shields's tender and ingenious literary puzzler, *Mary Swann*, which, like Anderson's novel, sets an accomplished writer in rural isolation. Shields's Mary Swann writes poetry in rustic Ontario; Anderson's Alice O'Leary, the house guest of the title, gives up writing novels in a New Zealand farmhouse.

Dromgoole is studying Alice for his PhD and needs to know why she stopped writing long before she died 20 years before. Robin has a painful history: soon after their marriage, his wife, Lisa, died on a weekend trip into the bush, which is perhaps why Alice, "who specialised in despair" appeals to him so much. Also the fact that, as a small boy, he actually saw Alice, who was staying with his next-door neighbour, Miss Bowman, and left the house in tears.

The mystery of Alice's last years turns out to have a lot to do with Miss Bowman's niece, Emmeline, a skittery actress who, without being false to Lisa, Robin has always loved.

■ THE HOUSE GUEST
By Barbara Anderson
Cape, £14.99

Robin is one of the most generously affectionate men in literature. Although in his darkest moments, he mutters, "All slogging on. Crashing about. Getting it wrong", he is full to the brim with understanding and empathy. His concern for Emmeline in her *moment of crisis is* all cumbersome heartache.

Anderson: deceptively clever

Every character in this novel is a little masterpiece, brought to buoyant life in Anderson's idiomatic, jumpy sentences. This is a writer with flawless observation and an offhand knack of making you forget just how clever she really is.

PENNY PERRICK

TEENAGE FICTION

Take care, it's a jungle out there

■ JAKE'S ESCAPE
By Robin Hanbury-Tenison
Red Fox, £2.99

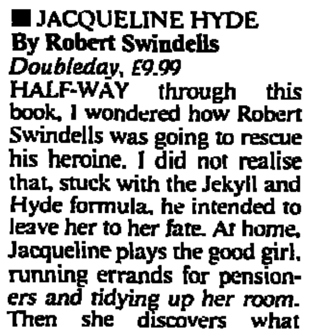
THE FAMOUS explorer's first children's book, categorised here as "older fiction", has the effect of making anyone over the age of ten wonder how he or she would react to sudden danger. Kidnapped by Shining Path terrorists while on holiday in Peru, 12-year-old Jake escapes with little more than a packet of boiled sweets. Because of Robin Hanbury-Tenison's deftly injected knowledge of the dark, canopied forests, Jake's survival through terrifying adventures — from a close encounter with red piranha fish to maggots in the feet — seems perfectly possible. But the inspirational quality of this thrilling story is in the blending of a mysterious magic world with the development of a sympathetic character.

■ HAS ANYONE SEEN THIS GIRL?
By Jean Ure
Bodley Head, £8.99

THE TITLE refers to a newspaper headline, next to which is a truly horrible photograph of 14-year-old Rachel, looking, according to her former classmate, "like a startled parrot". The school misfit, Rachel has disappeared in contradictory circumstances. Could the awkward, ungracious girl really have a glamorous admirer? In this modern boarding-school story Jean Ure relates in fascinating detail the whole appalling epic of Rachel's disappearance, uncovering deeper reasons for her social isolation. Ure's canny enlightenment never flags.

■ JACQUELINE HYDE
By Robert Swindells
Doubleday, £9.99

HALF-WAY through this book, I wondered how Robert Swindells was going to rescue his heroine. I did not realise that, stuck with the Jekyll and Hyde formula, he intended to leave her to her fate. At home, Jacqueline plays the good girl, running errands for pensioners and tidying up her room. Then she discovers what seems to be a bottle of old smelling salts in her granny's attic. One sniff and she goes wild, flooding a public loo, smashing up a greenhouse and reciting rude verses at the school concert. She has become Jacqueline Bad. The trouble is that, good or bad, Jacqueline is equally nauseating. As to what is in the bottle — glue, drugs or whatever — Swindells is not saying. Thirteen-year-olds may conclude that she is fated for youth custody mainly because she has "sugar all to do".



Swindells: no rescue

MAUREEN OWEN

NOVELS IN BRIEF

Fiends, relations and other lovers

■ TAPES OF THE RIVER DELTA
By Peter Cunningham
Arrow, £5.99

PETER CUNNINGHAM'S novel is an unsettling combination of family saga and thriller but transcends both categories. His narrator, Theo Shortcourse, is a civil servant, based in Dublin, whose life has been overshadowed by his ruthless but charismatic cousin, Bain Cross — now a powerful figure in the Irish Government. Theo and Bain have been rivals since boyhood, when both competed for the affection of Theo's beautiful mother, Sparrow. Theo's relationships have otherwise failed. Cunningham's portrayal of the power relations within families underlies his analysis of Irish political life. The result is an ingenious and chilling tale of thwarted ambitions and betrayal.

■ THROWING THE HOUSE OUT OF THE WINDOW
By Ben Richards
Headline, £12.99

JAMIE COLLINS is the housing officer for a run-down East London estate, a job which involves him in all kinds of problems, such as the harassment of an Asian family by local racists. Jamie also has more personal conflicts when his girlfriend Helen leaves him and he takes up with louche Iona, whose promiscuous behaviour masks an underlying vulnerability. Then Jamie meets Ana Maria, a beautiful Chilean girl, and finds his world turned upside down. Ben Richards's accomplished first novel convincingly evokes the energy and angst of contemporary urban life.

■ & GILLIAN
By Alvin Rakoff
Little, Brown, £12.99

IN Alvin Rakoff's moving novel, Robin, an American in London, is married to Gillian, who is diagnosed as having cancer. At first, she resists any suggestion that her illness is fatal, but this conviction becomes ever harder to sustain. Robin finds his own strength undermined by the need to put on a brave face. An encounter with a young woman on a trip to Paris seems to offer an escape — but Robin discovers that he is incapable of such a betrayal. Rakoff's unsparing account of bereavement is mitigated by his affectionate portrayal of married life.

■ LOOSE CHIPPINGS
By Ian Ogilvy
Headline, £16.99

TO FEND off the Inland Revenue, Frederick, Marquis of Steepleforth, sells his sprawling ancestral home to a shady American, the Rev Jim Pohackett, for a large sum. Mr Pohackett has designs not only on Graveley Place, his newly-acquired mansion, but also on the local village church, where he intends to find fresh converts to his own brand of fundamentalism. But of course he has reckoned without the peculiar apathy of the British in matters of religion. The author is best known as a television actor, and there is something of the television mini-series about this outlandish comedy, which pokes fun at a whole range of targets, from the British aristocracy to the American predilection for bizarre religions.

CHRISTINA KONING

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Gitta Sereny on mankind's complicity in slaughter; *Credo*, Melvyn Bragg's novel of the Dark Ages

The Times / Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	PRIMARY COLORS **Anonymous** *(Chatto & Windus)*	£15.99	2	3
2	KEN HOM'S HOT WOK BOOK **Ken Hom** *(BBC)*	£16.99	2	4
3	ROGUE TRADER **Nick Leeson** *(Little, Brown)*	£16.99	3	3
4	THE COLLAPSE OF BARINGS **Stephen Fay** *(Richard Cohen)*	£20	0	1
5	SHOCKWAVE **Clive Cussler** *(Scribners/Simon & Schuster)*	£16.99	9	2
6	CROSS CHANNEL **Julian Barnes** *(Cape)*	£10.99	0	9
7	IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY **Elizabeth George** *(Bantam)*	£16.99	0	3
8	ELIZABETH **Sarah Bradford** *(Heinemann)*	£20	0	4
9	THE UPSTART **Catherine Cookson** *(Bantam)*	£15.99	8	2
10	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE **Daniel Goleman** *(Bloomsbury)*	£16.99	5	9

PAPERBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	SOPHIE'S WORLD **Jostein Gaarder** *(Phoenix)*	£4.99	1	2
2	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM **Kate Atkinson** *(Black Swan)*	£5.99	3	9
3	TRAINSPOTTING **Irvine Welsh** *(Minerva)*	£6.99	2	29
4	THE RAINMAKER **John Grisham** *(Arrow)*	£5.99	4	7
5	OUR GAME **John le Carré** *(Coronet)*	£5.99	0	1
6	LADDER OF YEARS **Anne Tyler** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	5	6
7	RUTHLESS NEED **Catherine Cookson** *(Corgi)*	£5.99	10	2
8	MARABOU STORK NIGHTMARES **Irvine Welsh** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	9	7
9	SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS **David Guterson** *(Bloomsbury)*	£5.99	6	26
10	SENSE AND SENSIBILITY **Jane Austen** *(Penguin)*	£1.99	0	1

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Michael Ignatieff, *Independent on Sunday*

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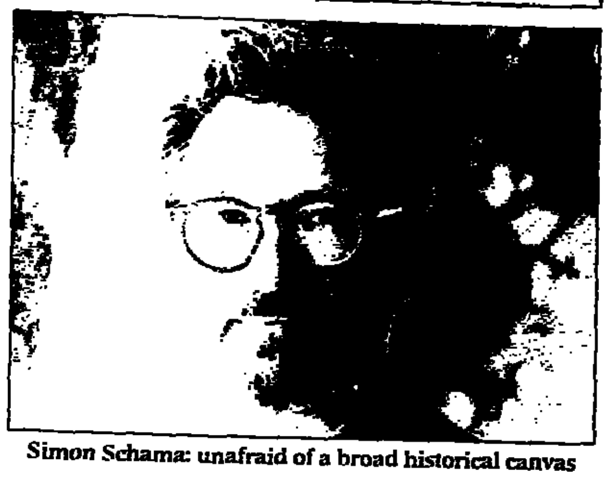


Simon Schama: unafraid of a broad historical canvas

■ LANDSCAPE AND MEMORY
By Simon Schama
HarperCollins, £16.99

LANDSCAPES, according to Schama, "are culture before they are nature". This historian has never flinched from a broad canvas, and here takes on the task of exploring the assumptions that influence our perception of the natural world.

Schama argues that even landscapes supposedly untouched by human hand are *in fact* constructs: for Schama, "framing" a wilderness as a National Park makes it to some extent just as artificial as a landscape caught in a "Claude-glass" — a mirrored device, popular in the 18th century, used to aid the transformation of ordinary scenes into painterly visions.

Schama proceeds anecdotally, considering the significance attached — mainly in the West — to wood, water and rock. He introduces us to Claude Denecourt, who devised the first nature trails at Fontainebleau; to Gutzon Borglum, who stamped his ideal of the American presidency on Mount Rushmore; and to modern artists like Andy Goldsworthy. Schama's boundless intellectual energy and confidence made this one of the most exciting books of 1995.

■ AN INTERFERENCE OF LIGHT
By Russell Celyn Jones
Penguin, £6.99

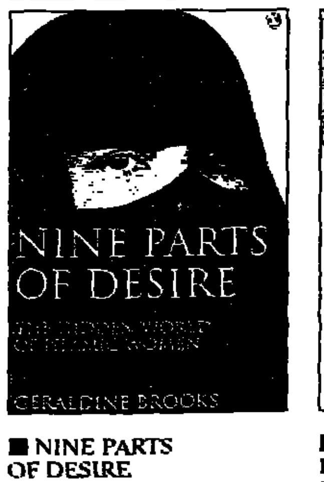
CELYN JONES travels deep into the heart of Welsh mountain life in the late 1930s. *A young American private investigator is charged with discovering the* secrets of the quarrymen; he becomes instead their elegist. This is a haunting work, *a fine match for the troubled* spirit of the times.

■ THESE SAME LONG BONES
By Gwendolyn M. Parker
Penguin, £6.99

IT IS 1947 and in the North Carolina town of Durham the prosperous black community are grieving over the death of 11-year-old Mattie. In a lovingly detailed patchwork of memories and observations, Parker tells the stories of the members of the community. Parker's prose is precise and she effectively sets the novel's sense of the fragility and brevity of human life against the solid faith, work and traditions of a community bound by loyalty and common heritage. This is a novel that lingers in the imagination.

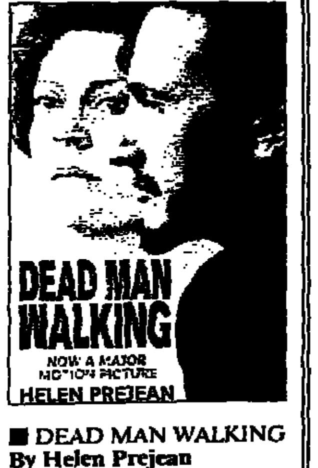
■ SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
By Robyn Sisman
Mandarin, £5.99

AN OXFORD undergrad is on the trail of his true father. He has discovered a snapshot of his mother, taken 20 years earlier, in the arms of an unconfessed old flame. Mater is put on the horns of a dilemma. In America, a presidential candidate hailed as Kennedy reincarnated finds that his past has got hold of his phone number and his career is on the line. Sisman has fictionalised her alleged affair with Clinton; unfortunately this romantic thriller is littered with clichés.



■ NINE PARTS OF DESIRE
By Geraldine Brooks
Penguin, £7.99

AS A Middle East correspondent, Brooks found many stories were out of bounds to a woman. But when her stiletto-heeled PA switched to the black garb of fundamentalism, Brooks realised that the world of Muslim women was waiting to be investigated. The resulting book ranges from genital mutilation to women in fatigues. If the findings are alarming, the fine prose is quietly pointed: Muhammad himself condemned sex without foreplay as cruelty to women. Fascinating.



■ DEAD MAN WALKING
By Helen Prejean
HarperCollins, £5.99

HELEN PREJEAN was a Roman Catholic nun working with the New Orleans poor when she was asked to write to, then meet, a prisoner on Louisiana's Death Row. Although she abhors his crime, the rape and brutal murder of two strangers, she befriends this man, then another. Witnessing their executions convinces her that the death penalty is morally unjustifiable. Reasoned, compassionate and above all sensible, this book convinced me. It got a Pulitzer Prize nomination. It should have won.

Contributors: Erica Wagner, Alison Burns, Lucy Lethbridge, Kate Bassett, Fiona Hook

Beating about the Bushmen

Justin Cartwright on a Swiftean satire of our colonial legacy

■ DARKEST ENGLAND
By Christopher Hope
Macmillan, £15.99

"BY WHAT I have gathered from your own relation, I cannot but conclude the bulk of your natives to be the most pernicious race of little odious vermin that nature ever suffered to crawl upon the surface of the earth."

Christopher Hope has taken Jonathan Swift's lines, and played out a wonderful and extended joke with them. The Bushmen of South Africa were once treated as vermin. A bounty of £1 was placed on their heads and they were hunted virtually to extinction.

Darkest England purports to be the log of the journey of David Mungo Booi, one of the only surviving San Bushmen, who is chosen to go to England clutching an illuminated scroll presented to his forebears by Queen Victoria, to see if that damp country is suitable for settlement. South Africa, it seems, still has no place for the yellow people, other than the back of police vans.

The satire, however, is largely reserved for the Mother Country. In Swiftean style, Hope plasters it with well-directed ordure. From the moment he arrives in England, intent on meeting the Queen and requesting her help, Booi runs into every known form of English double-speak, hypocrisy and delusion, and quite a few more.

When poor Mungo Booi is detained by immigration officers, he tries heroically to recognise the fabled qualities of the benighted English. Eventually he is released into the care of an unfrocked bishop and his capacious daughter. From there, he is more or less kidnapped by a dotty nobleman, whose harem are fascinated by the condition known in anthropological circles as semi-priapism. There is no plot to speak of but a series of outrageous incidents, including, in homage to Swift, some business with an ostrich egg.

What lends this novel distinction is Hope's deft touch in his inversion of the rules and in his understanding of the self-serving nature of Western beliefs. Underneath the knockabout and the dark observation of English society lies a deep and humane interest in the fate of the lost peoples.

This book carries a big stick, cloaked in laughter.

A vanished Ireland recalled in photographs from 1954

Hitting a festive note: the Dunne brothers of Limerick strike up at a hurling match — one of the many striking images in *Dorothea Lange's Ireland* (Aurum Press, £19.95)

Love ages on the Vine

Marcel Berlins finds a breathtaking imagination at work in a mature vintage

■ THE BRIMSTONE WEDDING
By Barbara Vine
Viking, £16

IT OPENS with a haunting sentence, repeated with variations, throughout the book: "The clothes of the dead won't wear long. They fret for the person who owned them." In Vineland, of course, this is not a mere passing reference to inherited garments. *The Brimstone Wedding* is about substituted lives: its characters are sad women who try for happiness by using emotions — and houses and husbands — that belong to others.

Stella Newland is dying of lung cancer at Middleton Hall, a residential home in Norfolk for the comfortably-off elderly. Genevieve Warner, her solid, unimaginative, superstitious "care assistant", becomes her unlikely friend and confidante, the holder of secrets the old woman has never revealed, even to her own children.

Stella owns a long-neglected house nearby: Genevieve is its first visitor for more than 20 years. In the fridge, a bottle of champagne lies unopened; there is an oil painting of a woman in a pink dress and a faded photo of a couple in love. A red Ford Anglia sits in the garage. Out of these mundane accessories of past existence, Vine fashions a tender, horrifying mystery as heart-stoppingly exquisite as anything she has written.

Slowly, through the two narrators Stella and Genevieve, the events of the past unravel, complemented by Genevieve's own emotional torment. After 13 years of marriage to her boring dependable spouse, she has fallen for a rakish television producer, a newcomer to the village. The modern lovers hold their illicit meetings in Stella's house and bed — the very scenes of the dying woman's unfolding confessions of passion, deception and fear 30 years before. Past and present touch each other in other ways, too: a ploughing farmer evokes strange memories: Genevieve watches on television the old films of the once famous, now obscure acress Gilda Brent, a crucial player in Stella's drama.

The graceful, meandering, leisurely pace of the novel as Stella approaches a dignified death masks brilliantly the explosive revelations to come.

To say that the pieces of the jigsaw suddenly fall into place suggests a mechanical process in which scattered clues come together in some sort of neat resolution. Vine is far subtler than that. The story, beautifully written, emerges delicately, yet with shocking, ironic force and breathtaking imagination, as the unlikely parallel paths of the haughty old woman and her pedestrian companion finally unite. The last sentence, like the first, ends with a provocative thought on the clothes of the dead.

Two manuals to launch a blockbusting writing career

How to sell a million

■ THE WRITER'S COMPANION
By Barry Turner
Macmillan, £12.99

■ BESTSELLER
By Celia Brayfield
Fourth Estate, £7.99

Brayfield: fascinating

JOHN GRISHAM allegedly earns more than a minor European country. Catherine Cookson's sales worldwide hover at a mere 100 million. Fruits of the gin and tears in the small hours, riches and fame are there for the taking for the popular writer, offering comfort against the sneers of the literati and the notion embedded in the collective ether that if something sells it cannot be good. After all, being cut to the quick in a penthouse is more comfortable than in a freezing basement.

Not that either Celia Brayfield or Barry Turner imagines that their books will persuade the literary establishment down from its lofty and, by comparison, impoverished pinnacle. They are after results, even if, on examination, the divide is less profound than imagined. Brayfield defines a fiction bestseller as one that sells 100,000 or more, which leaves literary luminaries such as Roddy Doyle and A. S. Byatt ricocheting between camps, a paradox neatly summed up by P. D. James when she described Jane Austen as "Mills & Boon with genius".

Although I take issue with the old chestnut that "a synopsis and sample chapter are all that is needed for a publisher to make a judgment", which is akin to being shown the storyboards at a film premiere, Turner's *Companion* is constructively practical. A nuts-and-bolts manual on the writing — "a sympathetic heroine is desirable", etc — and the placing of category romance, children's books and radio, television and film scripts, its valuable advice is to be found in the sections on contracts, tax, libel, proofreading, copyright and hooking an agent. His gift is to make these boring bits palatable.

Much more ambitious and fascinating, Brayfield tackles the Zen of fiction bestsellerdom. Her premise that stories define a puzzling world and help to defuse our more primitive fears, the most significant *continuing to haunt and nourish our imaginations*, is based on a study of how myth works through cultures. From there *she constructs her methods of* story shaping, research, narrative techniques and, of course, style. The less spatially minded might recoil from the mind maps and charts but few will disagree with the stern but excellent advice on dealing with inhibiting fears, family intrusions, the urge to stuff chocolate and the knockabout trauma of being published.

No writer should permit the rebel and risk-taker to be beaten out of them. Rules should be broken occasionally, and the responsiblity to write living, breathing novels capable of making us laugh, weep and marvel rests with the author. Nevertheless, from the GCSE student upwards, writers and readers will enjoy this bold and illuminating tilt at unravelling the mysteries of the popular novel. Even, perhaps, the literary novelist.

ELIZABETH BUCHAN

A used husband is no bargain

■ SECOND WIVES
By Cindy Blake
Simon & Schuster, £15.99

WHEN the four Preston sisters are still young children, their mother accidentally runs over their baby brother, Steven, and kills him. Racked with guilt, she goes nuts, withdraws from the family, leaves Boston for London with her local gardening group, and dies there.

Naturally, Mrs Preston leaves her daughters a legacy of emotional dysfunction. With a withdrawn father who fishes and womanises in almost equal measure, the Preston sisters have to fend for themselves in life and love, which they do with rather unhappy consequences.

Underconfident Meg marries a divorced, priggish academic, and inherits not only his awful sons but weekend casseroles from their drippy mother. Capable Amy marries firstly a dissolute hippy who leaves her holding the baby, and secondly a man with a daughter from a first marriage to his zany childhood sweetheart. Acerbic Beth shuns commitment altogether, preferring casual sex and whisky. And sweet Leonora (there is, incidentally, no explanation as to why she is the only sister *not* named after one of Louisa M. Alcott's *Little Women*) falls in love with a man still married to a woman who wears electric blue and has murderous tendencies.

If *Second Wives* sounds *laughable, it is because it is* meant to be. Cindy Blake is a gifted comic writer, and *Second Wives* is an energetic and spirited comic novel. It is melodramatic and over-sentimental, yes, but it is also enormous fun, and what sets it apart from many of its sibling blockbusters is Blake's intelligent and razor-sharp wit.

She has a good ear for quick-fire dialogue (one or two of the sparkiest exchanges put me in mind of scripts by the great Nora Ephron) and groovy, grouchy Beth is a wonderful creation: her ceaseless one-liners are not only wildly funny but a good antidote to schmaltzy statements such as, "Love means never looking over the guy's shoulder for someone more interesting on the horizon", which should really be left out of all books, at all costs.

Great fun, but a word of advice for prospective second wives: it is not a manual.

MARY LOUDON

BOOK NEWS

NCR's prize shortlist

GITTA SERENY'S *Albert Speer* and Simon Shama's *Landscape and Memory* are among a dozen titles on the long shortlist for this year's £25,000 NCR Book Award for Non-Fiction. Shama won the £10,000 W. H. Smith Literary Award only last week.

Announcing the list, Jeremy Paxman, the chairman of the judges, said: "We have chosen an exciting cross-section of British non-fiction. Picking only one will be a nightmare." Picking even a dozen was no easy task: they had a record 146 submissions.

The prize, previously known as the AT&T, is reverting to its old name: the sponsor, the business computing company, has changed its own name back to the NCR Corporation.

The other shortlisted titles are *Vera Brittain: A Life* by Paul Berry and Mark Bostridge; *Francis Drake* by John Cummins; *Millennium: A History of Our Last Thousand Years* by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto; *Mukiwa: A White Boy In Africa* by Peter Godwin; *Gladstone* by Roy Jenkins; *The Railway Man* by Eric Lomax; *Byzantium* by John Julius Norwich; *Accountable to None* by Simon Jenkins; *Dear Dodie* by Valerie Grove; and *Rebel Hearts* by Kevin Toolis.

Paxman oversees an adjudicating panel that includes the bookseller Sue Butterworth, the author Nick Hornby, the journalist Cristina Odone and the historical biographer and author Andrew Roberts.

■ *AFTER the Penguin 60s, another smart new marketing tactic from Penguin — Stephen King's new thriller,* The Green Mile, *is being published in six monthly instalments, at £1.99 each, starting next week, and he has still not finished writing it.*

■ YOU won't get to the White House or Downing Street as a successful author but you will certainly be able to afford suites at the Savoy or the Pierre, to judge from two surveys this week.

Only two authors — Germaine Greer, at No 36, and Helen Gurley Brown, at No 72 — made *The Times Magazine's* list of the world's most powerful women, which concludes with the top 25 today.

Yet 22 authors made *The Mail on Sunday's* survey of Britain's top-earning women, with Barbara Taylor Bradford (reputedly earning £19.7 million) on top and Rosamunde Pilcher (fourth with £3.9 million), Delia Smith (sixth at £3.4 million) and Ruth Rendell (tenth at £2.9 million).

Authors on the rise were crime novelist Minette Walters (fortieth on £735,000) and romantic writer Josephine Cox (sixty-first at £441,000). There were 31 businesswomen.

■ *FERGAL KEANE'S* Season of Blood, *a moving account of the Rwandan massacre which he reported for the BBC, has won the Orwell Prize for the best political book of 1995.*

■ EVER wondered how to make a million out of your first novel? Two young Americans who have done just that are starting a whistle-stop tour of Britain next week, handing out free advice and instant criticism. Chuck Hogan and Craig Holden, authors of *The Standoff* and *The River Sorrow*, will be visiting bookshops in London, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester and Southampton. At Dillons, Trafalgar Square, on Monday, they will be offering instant value judgments on prospective authors' first chapters. There is a cash first prize of £100. Only £999,900 more to go and you are in the club.

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'A wonderful novel'
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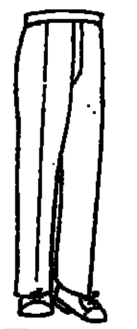

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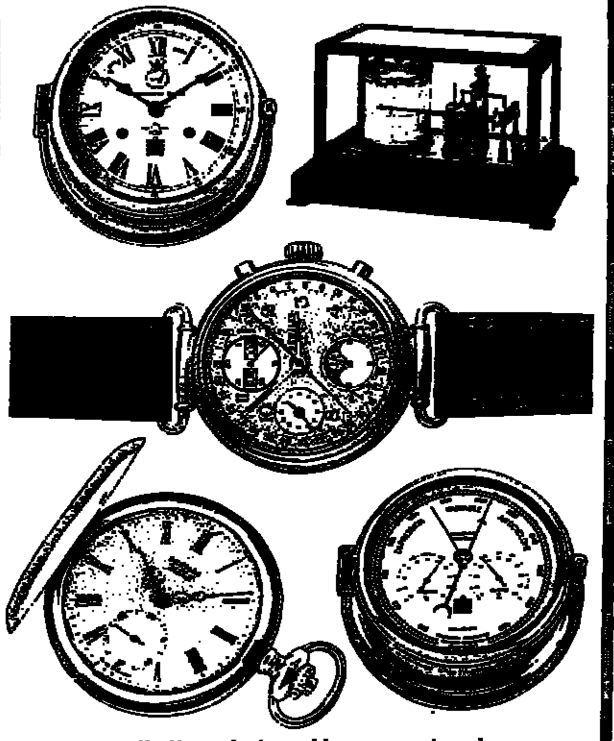

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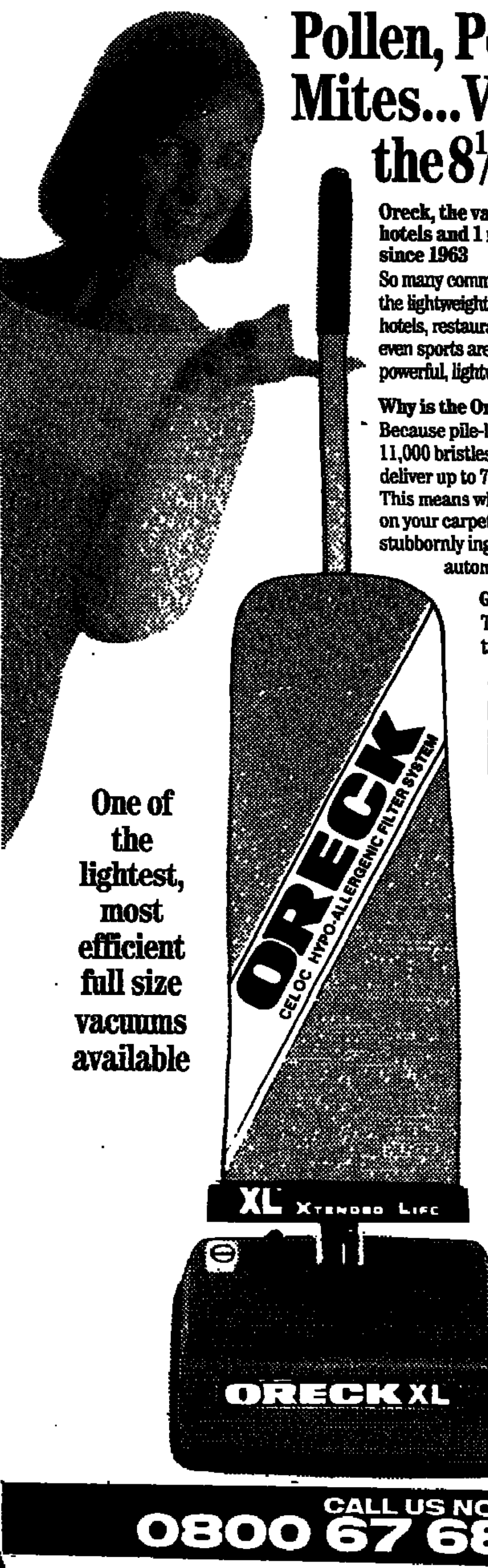

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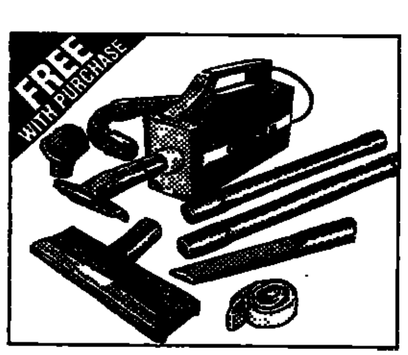

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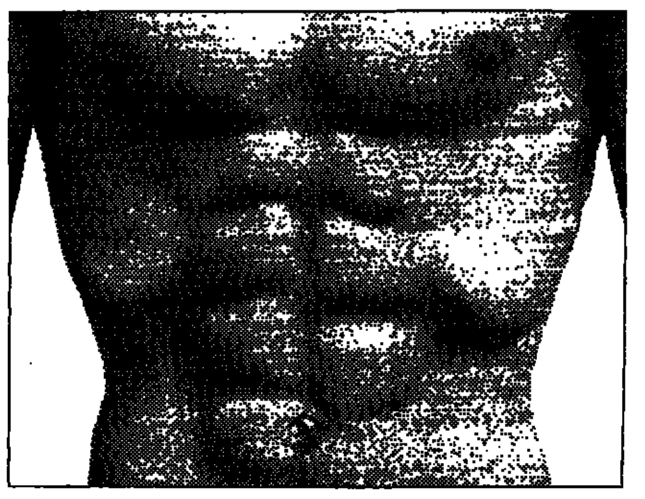

If the answer is yes, I have wonderful news about my new Video that can give you the kind of flat stomach that will be the envy of everyone.

My name is Jill Knipp. I am a Certified Personal Trainer and I have developed a new Stomach Flattening Video containing 7 simple stomach exercises that take 7 minutes to complete. Yes, just 7 minutes – about the time it takes to make breakfast or take a shower.

I promise you that if you devote just 7 minutes a day to these simple exercises you can have a flat, firm, attractive midsection faster than you ever dreamed possible.

Why this belly-flattening video works in just 7 minutes a day

The abdominal exercises in my Video work ONLY your abdominal muscles. They do not work your back, neck or other parts of your body. The 7 simple exercises in my Video automatically arget your abdominal muscles – and only your abdominal muscles.

My Video guarantees you a perfect abdominal workout every time – all in just 7 minutes. And these exercises are safe, effective, fun – and they work.

The 7 stomach exercises in my Video will smooth out, firm and flatten the muscles in your midsection. But not all abdominal exercises do this.

Some abdominal exercises can actually build your abdominal muscles – this is why many people who start stomach-reducing programmes often DO NOT get rid of their gut despite doing hours of grueling exercises.

I can assure you this WILL NOT happen by doing any of the exercises in my 7 minute abdominal workout Video. With my Video you will quickly notice that your clothes fit better and your friends and family will likely comment on how good you look.

It's like having your own personal trainer come to your home

With my new Video, it's like having your own personal trainer come to your home everyday. You simply slide my Video into your VCR and I will show you exactly how to do the 7 abdominal exercises. I will personally guide you through the programme. You can see for yourself how to do each exercise – so you will be sure that you are doing them properly and getting the maximum stomach-slimming benefits. These abdominal exercises are so effective in getting rid of a pot belly and slimming your midsection that doing more than the 7 minutes of exercises would probably be a waste of time. The 7 simple exercises in the Video are all you need to have the firm, tight, sexy stomach that everyone wants but few are able to achieve.

If you were to hire your own personal trainer it would cost you hundreds if not thousands of pounds – and the results would not equal the results you can expect to achieve with my Video. That's because not all trainers know about the incredible results that can be obtained from my simple 7 minute abdominal workout. And my abdominal exercise Video has many other advantages. For example, you will know for sure that you are doing each exercise properly. And you will know for sure that you are devoting the proper time to each exercise. And most important I will be right there guiding and encouraging you all the way. I promise I will flatten your pot belly and slim your midsection so quickly and easily that you won't believe your eyes. A firm, flat stomach makes you look and feel better. Your posture often improves and nagging back problems often disappear.

Free Bonus

My Video is only £19.95 (plus £3 postage and handling) and it's worth every penny and more. But there's more! As a FREE BONUS I will include my 7 Minute Buttock Shaping video programme. This programme is designed to give your buttocks that shapely, firm-as-steel look. Shapely buttocks can be the sexiest part of a person's body. But there's even more! I will also include my 7 Minute Leg-Shaping video programme. This programme shows you simple exercises that will trim, tone and form your legs – both your thighs and calves. This whole package normally sells for £39.95. But if you order now you get all three programmes on one convenient video for my one low price.

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هكذا من الأصل

Thinking of downshifting to the middle of nowhere? **Jill Parkin** on what to buy once the labrador and Volvo are in place

Rustic rules for new recruits

The country is fashionable again. Good-lifers and downshifters are being tempted to leave the sophisticated city and go simple. Take Kevin and Pandora Maxwell, the downshifting super-couple who have moved out of Chelsea with their five and a half children. Maybe a 16bedroom house would not seem much of a downshift to most, but these things are relative.

The trouble is that incomers to the country stick out like a black patent stiletto in a farmyard. It takes heart to be a bumpkin. You may buy yourself the four-byfour plus labrador, but if you don't like getting either of them muddy it's no good.

Detail is all. Learn to live with mud, and add conviction to your country lifesyle with a few key buys. And steer clear of the car wash.

Super-cool shopping mall kids turn into Swallows and Amazons in the country. Store their wellies, and yours, on a welly dresser. Sivana (01488 684444, £139 plus delivery) does them in old pine — two shelves and a drawer. They come fully assembled. Flat-packs are for townies who shop at those out-of-town superstores that look as though they came flat-packed themselves.

The antiqued effect is what you're after generally. It is a look that is good for dogs and children — and you should get about acquiring lots of both as soon as you go rustic — because they can't make it look much more bashed about than it is already. Distressed and antiqued is nearly as good as family heirloomer.

Rubber-booted friends may want to brush 'em off and take 'em off at the door. The National Trust does an ironwork and bristle scraper for £24.95 and a stout wooden boot jack for £9.50 (from its shops or via delivery service on 01225 705676). Practise using a boot jack before you do it in public — it is very easy to topple over and lose your country cred.

If you must wash your boots, *remember that real country people rinse them off under the outside tap* or tackle them in the Belfast sink.

Belfast sinks, from £143 — big enough for the Aga tray

Wonderful things, Belfast sinks. The big ones are big enough to take an Aga roasting tray (see later for country cooker credibility) and perfect for cutting and preparing flower arrangements. They're the huge white fire-clay jobs that country incomers with no heart have been ripping out for years, and their builders have been selling for about £80 (according to my builder).

Broken ones are great for standing next to the herb garden and growing mint in. For a new one ring Brass and Traditional Sinks (01291 650738). You'll pay £143 for the smallest and £247 for the largest.

And the flowers you arrange will be your own. No more strangely coloured supermarket carnations. After a season or two, you'll be tripping around your borders clipping blooms and laying them in a traditional trug slung over your arm. Sussex Trugs in the village of Herstmonceux claims to be the original maker of these shallow split-wood baskets. They're made of willow with chestnut handle and rim. (Sussex Trugs do mail order on 01323 832137. Prices range from £8.50 to £58.30.)

The Aga saga runs and runs. But these kitchen stalwarts were going long before Joanna Trollope described her first vicar's wife. Mine is cream and 30 years old. These days they come in several rich colours and run on solid fuel, oil, gas or electricity. They are warm friendly monsters — solid and simple to cook with. There are two and four-oven models, ranging from £3,575 to £6,900. After all that fresh air, your Swallows and Amazons will huddle round the cooker which stays on 24 hours a day. Ring Aga on 0345 125207.

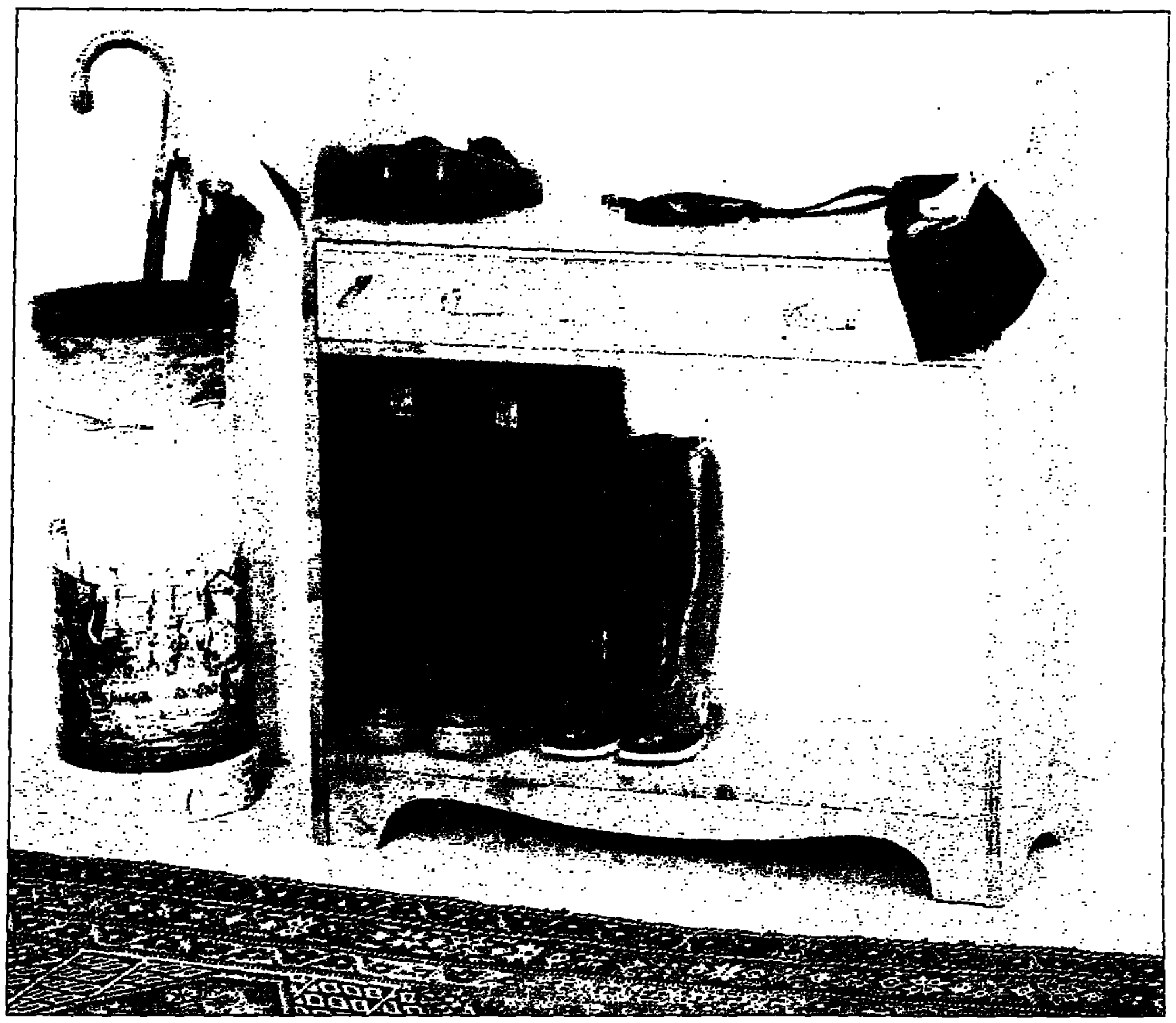
If you have a cooking range or a wood-burning stove putting out lots of kitchen heat, use it to dry your clothes. You need a Victorian airer, which is now becoming fashionable in suburbia, where ornamental jugs and china pot-pourris are hung on them. Yours will be a working airer. Hang it above the cooker or stove, where it will darken up nicely and maybe even bend a little, and use it to dry all those chunky sweaters you and your family now live in. (Domestic Paraphernalia, 01253 736334. Airers from £35.) Dry herbs from your garden on the airer, too, but leave out the trinkets.

Not that you can't have a little ornamental fun in the country kitchen. Pigs, cattle and sheep are acceptable. The National Trust does a great farm clock with all three (£38.95) as well as a Gloucester Old Spot dustpan and brush made out of stained pine (£15.95). Keep off anything with cats — they are awfully urban. Country house umbrella stands are for walking sticks, shooting sticks, sword sticks, anything but brollies. If you get wet, take comfort, and a snifter, from your tippling stick. Past Times has a wooden one with brass handle for £14.95 (01993 770440).

According to a countryman I know it takes the breasts of two dozen pigeons to make a good pie. You could find out just how good a pie by keeping your own birds in a dovecote. Mike Butcher makes them by hand in Wreningham, Norfolk. They start at £95 and go up to £208 for a four-floor, 12-nest job. He does pine and oak (WGF Dovecotes on 01508 489347). Real country people would think nothing of killing the young squabs to eat, but if you'd rather let the birds live rent-free, no one would know.

Apart from the mud, it is the blood that many former townies find difficult to take about the countryside. You may not feel easy with a fox's brush hanging next to your inglenook or fancy a pair of antlers in the hall, but you're safe with moleskin trousers. The name implies that some nasty fate has befallen Ratty and Badger's best friend, but actually they're made of shaved cotton. They are tough and warm and give you that sportsman or woman look without stalking or skinning anything. Barbour does them. (Approx £58, 0191-455 4444 for local stockists).

Finally, as your new life as a countrified downshifter moves at leisurely pace, you should have a sundial. There are lots of shiny ones to be found, but Past Times has a Victorian-style one in brass, ready antiqued (7in diameter, £19.95 complete with fixing screws, 01993 770440) which saves you having to muddy it up yourself.



One of the most important buys is a welly dresser for storing those muddy boots (this one is in old pine from Stevana, £139 plus delivery)

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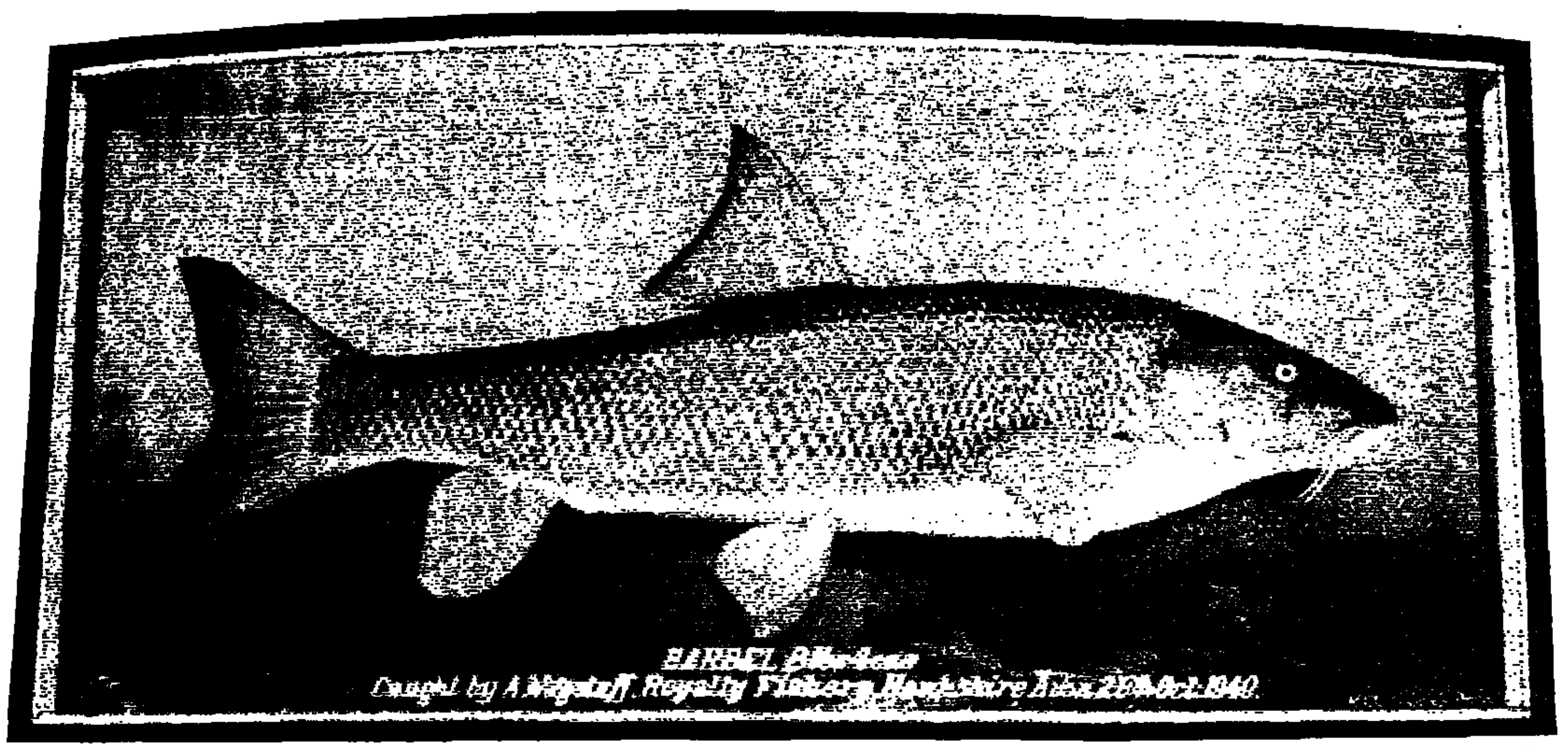
Valued hauls for the collectors of angling ephemera

A treasure trove of rods, reels and creels tells the story of fishing from the 1700s to the present day



An 8lb 4oz barbel, stuffed and mounted by J. Cooper and Son, London could cost up to £800. A mounted 3oz gudgeon recently fetched £5,000

Apart from maggots, antique fishing tackle covers almost anything: rods, reels, creels, anglers' knives, gut-eyed flies and cased fish. John Stephenson, an angler, became so hooked by the collecting bug that he left his job as sales director of Kwik-Fit six years ago to set up The Tackle Exchange at Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, dealing in new and vintage fishing tackle.

Angling has been his passion from the age of seven, when his elder brother took him lake-fishing in Perthshire. But now, landing a silver reel at auction is as thrilling as lifting a prize barbel from the nearby River Dove.

More than 100 reels sit on Mr Stephenson's shelves and he has another display behind his shop, regularly topped up with angling ephemera, landing-nets, gaffs and fly-boxes. Even lures, designed as throwaways but now worth up to £70, lead weights and hooks send ripples in the market.

Mr Stephenson started his collection by chance: "I was roach-fishing in a canal when I saw an old chap nearby who was distressed because the eye had fallen off his split-cane rod. I fixed it for him and, in return, he offered me an intriguing wooden rod."

Mr Stephenson's walls are lined with cased fish, including carp, rudd and trout, which lie entombed in glass boxes amid gravel and reed. Cased fish are popular collectables. A 3oz gudgeon from the 1940s sold recently at auction for £5,000. "A gudgeon is a good find, as it's rare to stuff such a tiny fish," he says.

One case contains a brace of sea trout — one a 17-pounder — caught, as the inscription reads, "by N.B. Spurway of Leicester, 1932". The angler was a record-holder in his day. "A collector offered me the case, and a second one, for £500," Mr Stephenson says, "and I had to have them. I drove to Walsall, got lost, and so did the collector. In the end, we agreed to meet at a motorway roundabout. It was worth all the hassle."

The original taxidermist's labels hang inside the case, along with the flies that ensnared the fish.

For anyone thinking of starting a collection, Mr Stephenson recommends Nottingham reels, which are relatively easy to find. Originally made in Nottingham in the 1830s, these wooden, 3-4in beauties were used for float and coarse fishing.

In years gone by, all reels were handmade and expensive. "Reelmakers were also clockmakers, skilled in filing pins and making grooves, and used to working in brass. Rods were often custom-engraved," Mr Stephenson says. In the 1930s a rod would cost the equivalent of six weeks' wages for a working man; in the 19th century it cost a year's pay.

Part of his fascination with antique tackle is seeing how different fishing once was: "A hundred years ago you'd soak the gut, dig for worms and other bait, and cycle to your destination. Later you would clean the tackle, hang the lines to dry, and rewind them." With today's hi-tech gear, this process is mostly eliminated, though sometimes Mr Stephenson uses vintage tackle.

Mr Stephenson calls himself a "fanatical fisherman and collector". He thinks most vintage tackle collectors are avid fishermen; and even anglers who are not collectors "hoard things that might be handy". But new collectors could become bait themselves: so healthy is the market that vintage creels (a fisherman's basket), cased fish and even flies have been faked.

Mr Stephenson's 18th-century wooden tackle includes items that look like wine-making equipment. One odd-looking device from 1750 is known as a "pirn", used in Scotland for harling (trawling a set of lines). A 1750s leather creel resembles a gourd. An iron winch has its original black and white horsehair line.

Tackle manufacturing took off in the 1700s. Now, as collecting becomes more popular, prices are increasing. A late 19th-century 4in aerial reel, made of ebonite with an intricate spoke drum spinning like a gyroscope, cost £200 two years ago and would now fetch £500. Hardy is a brand name to look for: established in 1872, it threw its lines across the British Empire.

Hooks and their original packets, from the 1840s, cost just a few pounds today, as do the gut-eyed flies, which look like colourful wisps. But for Mr Stephenson nothing beats the thrill of fishing: "Not long ago I caught my first 20lb pike," he says proudly.

JOSEPH WILLIAMS

John Stephenson with antique kit

Fact file

Reels display

☐ **The Tackle Exchange**, John Stephenson, 95b Trentham Road, Dresden, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST3 4EG (01782 599858).

☐ **Auctioneers:** Angling Auctions, Princess Louise's Regimental Headquarters, 190 Hammersmith Road, London W6 (0181-749 4175). Nock Deighton: Tasley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire (01746 762666). Christie's Glasgow, 164 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4TB (0141-332 8134).

☐ **Reading:** *The Antique Tackle Observer*, PO Box 93, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 0YZ (01509 852121); annual subscription £75. *Fishing Reels — Collecting for All*, by Phil Waller (£17), PO Box 108, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1TD. *Understanding Threadlines: a Collectors' Guide to the early Fixed-Spool Fishing Reels* (£20) and *Rosewood to Revolution: a history of the wooden reel and centre-pin* (£29), both by John Stephenson, from The Tackle Exchange.

SALEROOM

☐ GROWN-UPS can relive their childhood today in Ilkley, Yorkshire, where the **Andrew Hartley** antique toy auction includes a rare Meccano No 10 set (estimate £600-£800), dolls and a large rocking horse. Prices start at around £30.

☐ CAST-OFFS from the family seat of the marquesses of Bute, Mountstuart House, are being sold in Glasgow by **Christie's Scotland** on Monday. The 340 items range from a massive Japanese bronzed urn at £10,000-£15,000 to a colourful painting of wild fowl on the coast by Edwardian painter Archibald Thorburn at £10,000-£15,000.

☐ A FLOCK of stoneware birds by 19th-century makers the Martin Brothers, will be chased by collectors at **Phillips London** applied arts sale on Tuesday (£700-£3,000). Art glass by Gallé, Daum and others ranges from about £300-£3,000.

☐ A SALE is devoted to dogs and cats at **Christie's** on Thursday. Amassed by Count Alarico Palmieri, this collection ranges from sentimental oil portraits such as *Susan, an Old English Terrier* by 19th-century artist Alfred F. de Prades (£1,800-£2,500) to walking sticks with dog's head handles (£150 to £400). A grand neo-classical kennel complete with green-buttoned cushion for the top dog is expected to fetch from £3,000-£5,000.

☐ TIEPINS make a comeback on Thursday when about 60 of them come up at **Sotheby's** jewellery sale. One topped with a gold Brazilian beetle is estimated at about £250-£300.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

● *Andrew Hartley Fine Art, Victoria Hall, Little Lane, Ilkley, W Yorks (01943 816363); Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (0171-839 960); Christie's Scotland, 164 Bath Street, Glasgow (0141-332 8134); Phillips, 101 New Bond Street London W1 (0171-629 660); Sotheby's 34 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 8080).*

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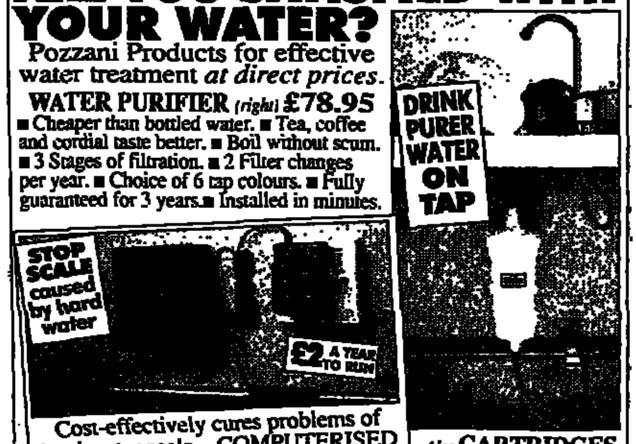

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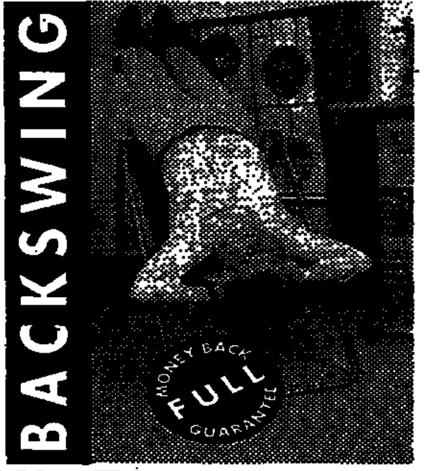

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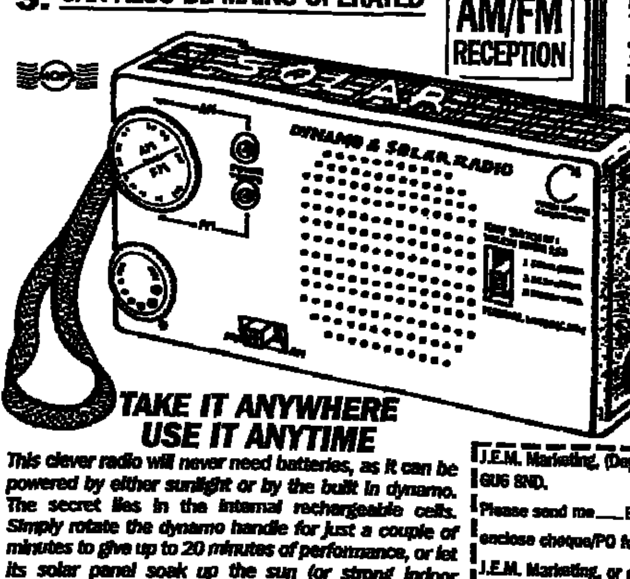

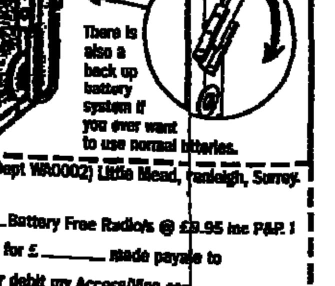

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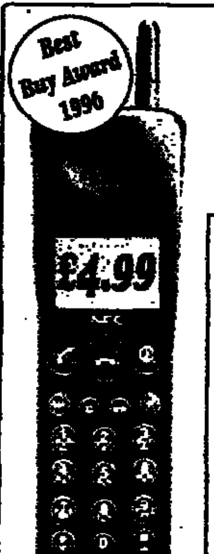

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How much good does walking do? After all, the Government's new health campaign recommends it

IAN INNESS

A brisk stroll through the country, or in town, helps relaxation and improves health. Dr William Bird found that many of his patients who took up walking benefited significantly

The pathway to fitness

Chasing cows on the family farm — the method of fitness chosen by Baroness Cumberlege, the junior Health Minister — is not a compulsory part of the Government's fitness campaign unveiled this week. Nor, strictly, is going for a walk. But "vigorous exercise" having been replaced officially by "moderate activity for 30 minutes a day five times a week", the health benefits of a regular, brisk walk have a solid stamp of approval. And now a new scheme can tell you precisely how much good that walk is doing you.

When Dr William Bird went walking in the Chiltern Hills around the Oxfordshire village where he works, the footpaths were empty, and it troubled him that a vital, and free, resource in preventive treatment was so underused by his patients. "All these benefits, which help to reduce high blood pressure, the risk of a stroke, heart attack and osteoporosis are on our doorstep."

He decided that it required something more than the standard advice to take exercise that he and his colleagues gave to their 71,600 patients at the Sonning Common Health Centre, near Reading, Berkshire. People knew that walking was healthy, but how healthy? And how often, how far, and how fast should they be walking for fitness?

They needed a new type of literature, not only telling walkers about an old priory they might be passing, but also calculating the calories and METs — metabolic equivalents, a standard unit used to measure forms of exercise — that they expended as they passed it. A MET is measured by the amount of oxygen used per minute per kg of weight.

It has been a staple detail of car advertising that model X, driven at speed Y over a given distance, will consume Z amount of petrol. So why not a leaflet for walkers showing how the body performs when it's out for a spin?

Dr Bird pioneered Health Walks, with funding from the Countryside Commission, whose remit includes encouraging people to walk. He researched ten local routes, mostly under four miles, and divided them into two types.

"Hard top" walks are pavement routes in residential areas suitable for wet weather, after dark or in winter. "Soft top" walks use local footpaths, and are graded into four levels of difficulty. Both walks are intended to be fitted in after work, during the lunch hour or other free time.

Dr Bird commissioned a series of colourful leaflets giving an artist's view of a walk based on an aerial photograph. The walk is described stage by stage, with detail on local history and nature. This is part of the holistic nature of the project. "It can help relaxation and give people a sense of belonging to their community," Dr Bird says.

What sets the leaflets apart from the standard walkers' library is the fitness table (see graphic, right) which Dr Bird devised with advice from Dr Adrienne Hardman of Loughborough University. This helps walkers to calculate the energy expended.

To assess the value of the scheme, Dr Bird is running a series of one-mile walks to test fitness levels in 106 patients aged over 50, though the Health Walks are not confined to that age group. The first was held last May. Fifty-eight patients were retested six months later after increasing their walks, and having received no individual advice. Seventy-five per cent of men and 66 per cent of women showed "significant" increases in fitness levels.

One finding is that a 20-minute walk taken within 12 hours of — before or after — a fatty meal can reduce the level of triglycerides, the harmful fats in the bloodstream, by 25 per cent. In short, fat will be digested more efficiently if the person takes a walk.

The amount of exercise that Dr Bird recommends is therefore in line with the targets announced by the Health Education Council on Tuesday — 30 minutes' exercise five time a week. He says walkers should exert themselves enough to become slightly breathless, but not so much as to interfere with conversation.

Grant aid and sponsorship by local companies have not met the £13,500 cost of the scheme, so the centre is having to sell the walks in packs of ten for £10. So far, 200 packs have been sold.

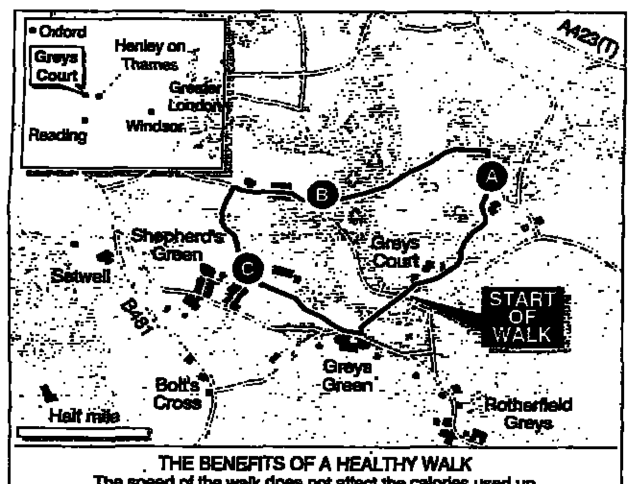
Dr Bird intends to pass on the idea to other GPs and, to maintain its quality, will oversee the expansion. He hopes it might become a national project within five years, with a target of 2,000 Health Walk schemes throughout Britain by the millennium.

GARETH HUW DAVIES

- *For further information about the Health Walks, send a stamped, addressed envelope to Dr William Bird, Sonning Common Health Centre, Wood Lane, Sonning Common, Reading RG4 9SW.*

Walking in Rutland, page 21

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR WALK AND CHECK YOUR MET RATE



THE BENEFITS OF A HEALTHY WALK
The speed of the walk does not affect the calories used up

Speed in mph	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5
No of mins to stage A	23	18	15	13	11	10
No of mins to stage B	32	25	21	18	16	14
No of mins to stage C	1hr 04	52	43	37	32	29
No of mins to finish	1hr 26	1hr 10	58	50	43	39
METs used	4.0	4.5	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.5

Your weight: stone (kg)	8 (50)	9.5 (60)	11 (70)	12.5 (80)	14 (90)	15.5 (100)
K calories used up	265	320	370	425	480	530

Walks are divided into four grades. Green: less than a mile and a half, no stiles, few gradients of less than five per cent. Blue: some stiles, a few gradients up to 15 per cent. Red: stiles, hilly with gradients up to 25 per cent. Black: stiles, rough ground, or very hilly with gradients more than 25 per cent.

For example, the 4.6km (just under three miles) Grey's Court circuit is graded red, maximum gradient 8 per cent over 140 metres, with 14 stiles and heavy mud. Leaflets show the scale of mud.

Walkers can time themselves and read from a sliding scale how many METs (metabolic equivalents) they use. The faster they walk, the higher the MET value, and the fitter they become.

Walkers can also estimate the calories they expend. 1,250 calories is the recommended weekly target. An eight-stone walker on the Grey's Court circuit would use 265 calories; a person weighing 15½ stone would use 530.

Newly fit: Ann Holt, Gordon Harries and Nicky Noakes

ANN HOLT, a 59-year-old retired midwife, took the fitness test last May.

"I was horrified that I was the second most unfit," she says. "I thought, 'I can't be — I swim once a week and do aerobics'. But then I also used to drive to the library and the shops."

She now walks two miles a day, five days a week. "I keep that up in winter except in the snow. I meet lots of people I haven't seen in years. It is very sociable."

When she was retested she found her fitness had improved by 18 per cent. "I feel ten years younger. I'm more alert. I feel a lot better and I'm more relaxed."

GORDON HARRIES, 64, regularly walks the path at the National Trust's Grey's Court estate in Oxfordshire, where he is custodian.

"I certainly feel the benefits — there is no doubt about it. I've lost a stone. People seem to have forgotten about walking. They go to gyms and swim, yet we do similar actions on a walk, climbing over stiles."

NICKY NOAKES is 28 with three children, the youngest four months old. She had always been fit, playing squash and running but, with the onset of motherhood, walking seemed an easier option.

"I don't get so tired now," she says. "I can fit walking around everyday life, go with friends and also take the children on my back. I do see its effects, particularly after the third pregnancy."

Aristocrat of the seas

After 14 years the Contessa 32 is back in production at its original builders

The Contessa 32 is back. The many admirers of one of the first acknowledged "classic" fibreglass yachts are celebrating the return to production of the elegant cruiser-racer at its original builders for the first time in 14 years.

Jeremy Rogers, who collaborated with David Sadler on the original design before building 450 at his yard at Milford on Sea in Hampshire, believes there is enough demand to justify going back into production with a starting price tag of £59,750 before VAT. In the healthy second-hand market the boats sell from around £20,000 to more than £40,000.

Judy Evans-Ruffell, the class association secretary, who runs a lively social and racing calendar for Contessa owners, is delighted at the arrival of the first of the new generation, *Wild Call*, in royal blue and white. "It was ahead of its time when first built and has proved to be possibly the ultimate cruiser-racer."

Although modest, the Contessa, with its fine ends and sleek coachroof is an attractive and comfortable cruising home. They are fun to race, as evidenced by the well-supported annual national championships and the admission of Contessas in their own class at Cowes as far back as 1975.

The rugged design has attracted an ambitious breed of sailor who cruise them all over the world and survive some of the worst conditions imaginable. A Contessa was famously the only yacht to finish from class 5 in the disastrous Fastnet Race of 1979, proving a more seaworthy craft than many bigger, more illustrious racing yachts.

Among recent achievements was the single-handed 1,700-mile voyage to Fremantle, Western Australia, by Jo Hunter under jury rig after her boat was dismasted in the Indian Ocean; and the survival of *Inshallah* last year after Hurricane Luis tore through an anchorage in St Maarten in the Caribbean.

On board *Wild Call* earlier this month in the Solent, I was struck by how light the boat seemed as she clipped to windward in a gentle easterly off Yarmouth. The yacht is a joy to sail, easy on the helm and has a genuine sea-keeping feel. She is well balanced, her long fin keel giving good performance to windward. She can be over-canvassed without getting uncontrollable.

As we ran down towards Hurst Castle under spinnaker, Mr Rogers explained how the new version, although still within class rules for racing, benefits from 25 years of experience with the design. "We've been doing a lot of refurbishment of the older boats in the past four years," he says, "and this has given us the opportunity to see where we can make improvements."

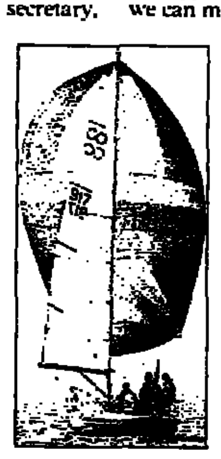
The cramped engine compartment has been enlarged to allow easier access. The galley comes with a custom-made Quantum worktop, replacing the old wood and formica. There is a double sink and better fiddles on the locker doors under the deckhead.

Mr Rogers has managed to find more space around the chart table, the lid of which is hinged in two places, enabling it to be either fully or half opened. The solid teak saloon floor with holly wood inlay has been dropped a further inch to improve headroom. The saloon has a comfortable, if spartan, feel, largely as a result of the white liner on the roof. On *Wild Call* it would have been a lot roomier but for the high half-bulkheads forward of the chart table and galley which tended to divide the space too much.

Wild Call certainly looked the part as we brought her alongside in Lymington Yacht Haven after a gentle outing on a sunny day. Mrs Evans-Ruffell has no doubt that orders will flood in for the new boats. "The Contessa and her owners are a bit like the MG sports car and its owners association. The people who have them take pride in owning a pretty boat."

EDWARD GORMAN

- *Further information from Carl Phillips Yachting (01703 457577) or fax (01703 454966).*



CONTESSA 32
Length overall: 32ft.
Length on the waterline: 24ft.
Beam: 9ft 6in.
Draught: 5ft 6in.
Sail area: 562 sq ft.

PETER BROWN

The magpie: enjoying a pinta

A coat of many colours

Feather report

IT HAS been known for a long time that blue tits will attack milk-bottles, pecking the caps and drinking the cream. Now a new villain of the doorsteps has been unmasked: the magpie. In the latest issue of *British Birds*, there is a report of a magpie in Southampton drinking milk from a bottle of silver-top.

The Great Anti-Magpie Lobby will be delighted to have fresh ammunition to use in its campaign — but I am not a member of that group. Only the other day I was watching a magpie with particular pleasure. It was feeding on the ground (as it usually does), and the early morning sun was bringing out its amazing glossy colours. It is not really a black and white bird, though it looks like one at a distance.

On this bird, I could see the purple-blue back and the glimmering green crown, the brilliant blue wings, and the shining bronzen-green tail turning purple at the tip. It was an exotic spectacle.

Magpies have been providing another striking spectacle recently. They have been gathering in flocks in treetops, chattering noisily, then flying off in a single line.

What is the purpose of these gatherings? Now that magpies are so numerous, many of them fail to get hold of a territory to breed in and are condemned to remain unmated for the rest of the season. They live in loose flocks, wandering about looking for food. The prevailing view is that in these gatherings they put on aggressive displays, involving much raising of crown feathers and puffing up of white shoulder-feathers, in order to establish a pecking order.

Those magpies that have successfully set themselves up as pairs in breeding territories are now beginning to build their bulky nests. They like to build in a thick tree or tall bush, and they make their nests of thorny twigs, lining them with earth and a little mat of roots. Both sexes take part in the construction, and the female lays several blue or green eggs mottled with brown.

I like to watch them when they are building. They are slow, clumsy flyers at the best of times, and when one of them has a long stick held crosswise in its beak it really struggles through the air. With its long tail, it looks just like a flying cross of Lorraine.

DERWENT MAY

- **What's about:** *Birders — watch for early sand martins over lakes and reservoirs. Twitchers — white-billed diver on Blyth estuary, Northumberland; red-rumped swallow near Penzance, Cornwall; hoopoe at Glapwell, Derbyshire. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*

THE TIMES

Complimentary Audiobooks

Today *The Times* offers you the chance to start an audiobook library with a choice of ten complimentary audiobooks (such as the two, right) published by Penguin Books. These bestselling novels, autobiographies and classics have been selected to appeal to every member of the family and are available for only £1.98 each to cover postage and handling (the normal retail price is £7.99 each).

They are read by familiar voices from stage and screen, or by the authors themselves, and recorded on high quality cassettes.

You can get up to ten by sending one token per audiobook, but you must order a minimum of two. Tokens will continue to be published until Wednesday, March 27 to enable you and your family to collect our complete set of ten complimentary audiobooks. (The complete list appears below.)

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THE TIMES
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Burma's tourist dilemma

Is it right to take a holiday in a country run by a despotic junta? Yes, says

Peter Hughes

Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, says tourists should stay away from Burma until democracy reigns

Tragedy and comedy wear the same masks in the benighted nation of Burma. If there is a twinkle in the eyes, the mouth grieves; if there is a smile on the lips, the eyes shed tears. It is a country that has been plundered, morally and economically, by the demented General Ne Win, who seized power in 1962. Although he stood down from the presidency 14 years ago, he has continued to pull the strings of the junta from behind the gun emplacements of his villa on the outskirts of the capital, Yangon (formerly Rangoon).

Ne Win is a lunatic in the astrological sense of the word, a man so superstitious that when an astrologer told him that right was better than left, he instantly ordered the nation's traffic to move from the left to the right side of the road. In homage to his lucky number, nine, he summarily replaced 50 and 100 kyat notes with denominations of 45 and 90. No warning was given nor compensation paid to those with savings in the old money.

The country is governed by the State Law and Order Restoration Council, SLORC for short, an acronym that could have been drawn from a lexicon of preposterous names for ruthless dictatorships. In 1990, to universal surprise, democratic elections were held. To the surprise of no one, except the regime, the main opposition party, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, swept the board with a three-to-one majority. So shocked was the Government that it disregarded the result and placed Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest. In 1991 she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and was released last year.

Such caprices might almost be comic were they not accompanied by brutality. Recently, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights published a catalogue of abuses — torture, executions, forced labour, rape, politically motivated arrests and detention.

Economically Burma, or Myanmar as it wishes to be known, is slumped in the middle of the UN's list of the ten poorest countries. And this is a nation, rich in minerals, which once grew enough rice to supply its neighbours.

On another whim, because they do not have the infrastructure to support it, the generals have declared 1996 to be "Visit Myanmar Year". The question is, should anyone visit such a country?

Tourism Concern, an organisation set up to prod the conscience of anyone who ignores the damage tourism can do, says no. Tricia Barnett, the director, claims tourism itself is contributing to the ill-treatment of the Burmese people. "Tourism development in Burma is associated with gross human rights abuse, such as displacement and forced labour." She quotes Aung San Suu Kyi's call for a halt to investment and for tourists to stay away until democracy is restored.

In the past 12 months I have made two visits to Burma, one last month for *The Times*. Presumptuous though it may be to dispute the views of a Nobel Prize winner, I nevertheless believe that as many people as possible should visit the country.

So do the teacher and lawyer I met in Mandalay. The worst times, they told me, were during the years when the generals themselves were deterring tourism by restricting visas. Then, when the country was isolated, the people felt forgotten.

Travel is not simply an economic commodity; some of the worst excesses of tourism have occurred because people have been allowed to think that it is. Still less is it a truncheon with which to rap the knuckles of the regimes we disapprove of, however detestable. Tourism, which ran uninterrupted to Eastern Europe in the 1970s, no more prolonged Soviet communism than it hastened the end of apartheid in South Africa or prevented the massacre in Tiananmen Square.

Tourism is about people as much as it is about politics or the balance of payments; it is one of our freedoms, both mine and the men's I met in Mandalay. To stay away from a country on principle may make you feel better but it may well make the people living there feel worse.

● *The author was Editor of ITV's* Wish You Were Here. . . ? *for 20 years.*

Holiday happenings from around the world

Hotel with fizz and fantasy

COMING SOON:
a 16-page, feature-packed,
Passport to Australia
supplement for tourists,
travellers and backpackers
will be published with
TheTimes next Friday

BRITAIN's first theme park hotel has opened at Alton Towers, Staffordshire, in a blur of fantasy, chocolate and fizz. The 175-room hotel, part of the Tussauds Group, has a travelling theme, with a five-storey Jules Verne-style flying machine in the atrium, a reception desk constructed from lost luggage, and travellers' artefacts in every corner. The park itself is a short walk or monorail ride away.

Sweet-toothed guests who want more than the standard rooms — from £100 for two adults and two children, B&B — can plump for the chocolate room in Dairy Milk purple, sponsored by Cadbury and with a free supply of Quality Street, or a fizzy drinks room with Coca-Cola on tap. Honeymooners may prefer the Arabian Nights suite, with *trompe-l'oeil* wall paintings, or the flowery Princess suite, both from £200 a night.

● *Alton Towers, Staffordshire ST10 4DB (01538 703344). Family ticket packages start at £55.75 per person for one night half-board plus tickets for two days in the theme park.*

● *Take two children free to Tussauds Group attractions, including Alton Towers — see page 9*

CAR HIRE EXTRAS

SOME tour operators offer "free" car hire on Florida packages — only for holidaymakers to discover that they have to pay from £101.50 a week for unavoidable extras and compulsory insurance. Special Places Florida (01992 509500) charges a flat £145 a week for a small car, including all extras, taxes and supplementary liability insurance. The company's villa hire is from £290 a week for a four-bedroomed property. *Flights from £265.*

GOING FOR GOYA

THE 250th anniversary of Goya's birth is being celebrated with a series of events throughout Spain. About 180 of his works will be on show, including Majas clothed and unclothed in Madrid's Prado Museum, until June 2. His works on paper (as opposed to canvas), and including original engravings and lithographs, will be on show at Madrid's National Library from June 25-Sept 20. For details, call the Spanish National Tourist Office, 0171-499 0901.

. . . AND GOA

THE Indo-Portugese charms of Goa and unspoilt Kerala have been teamed by Inspirations (01293 822244) in its winter 1996/97 programme. Both states have superb beaches. A fortnight's two-centre B&B holiday, including flights, starts at £814. A week in Goa starts from £394 per person or from £567 for 14 nights in Kerala.

BALTIC PASS

THE new Baltic air pass, one of the first from former Iron Curtain countries, is available to people booking tours using the Air Baltic Gatwick-Riga flight. This enables them to fly between Riga, Helsinki, Vilnius and Tallin, for £29 a sector. Visas not required by British passport holders. Tours and passes can be booked from Regent Holidays, 0171-921 1711.

TROJAN TREASURE

A TOUR to examine Trojan treasures smuggled out of Turkey at the end of the last century and discovered in Moscow in 1993, is being offered by Martin Randall Travel (0181-742 3355). The week's tour, in October, takes in Moscow's Pushkin Museum, Istanbul's archaeological museum, the Trojan site and harbour, and Gallipoli. The cost is £1,795 half board, including return flights.

FRENCH LEAVE

SELF-CATERING Motorail packages in France are offered by Eurovillages (01606 734400) at reduced prices in May. A family of two adults and two children under 11 heading for the Club Merigouin in the Dordogne will pay a total of £638 for seven days' chalet accommodation, including the Dover-Calais crossing, Motorail to Brive with couchette, and return. The same family heading for the Côte d'Azur and taking the Calais/Avignon Motorail would pay £916, with a weeks' stay at Latitudes Holiday Village at Les Issambres.

LOVE BOAT

LET a Mistress take you on honeymoon: these luxurious 47-metre crewed yachts, cruising along the Turkish coast or round the Greek islands, are for charter from Top Yacht Charter (01753 646636). No other guests on board, huge double cabin, hi-fi, two sailboats, windsurfing boards, snorkels and underwater cameras are included. Cost: £2,250 per couple a week.

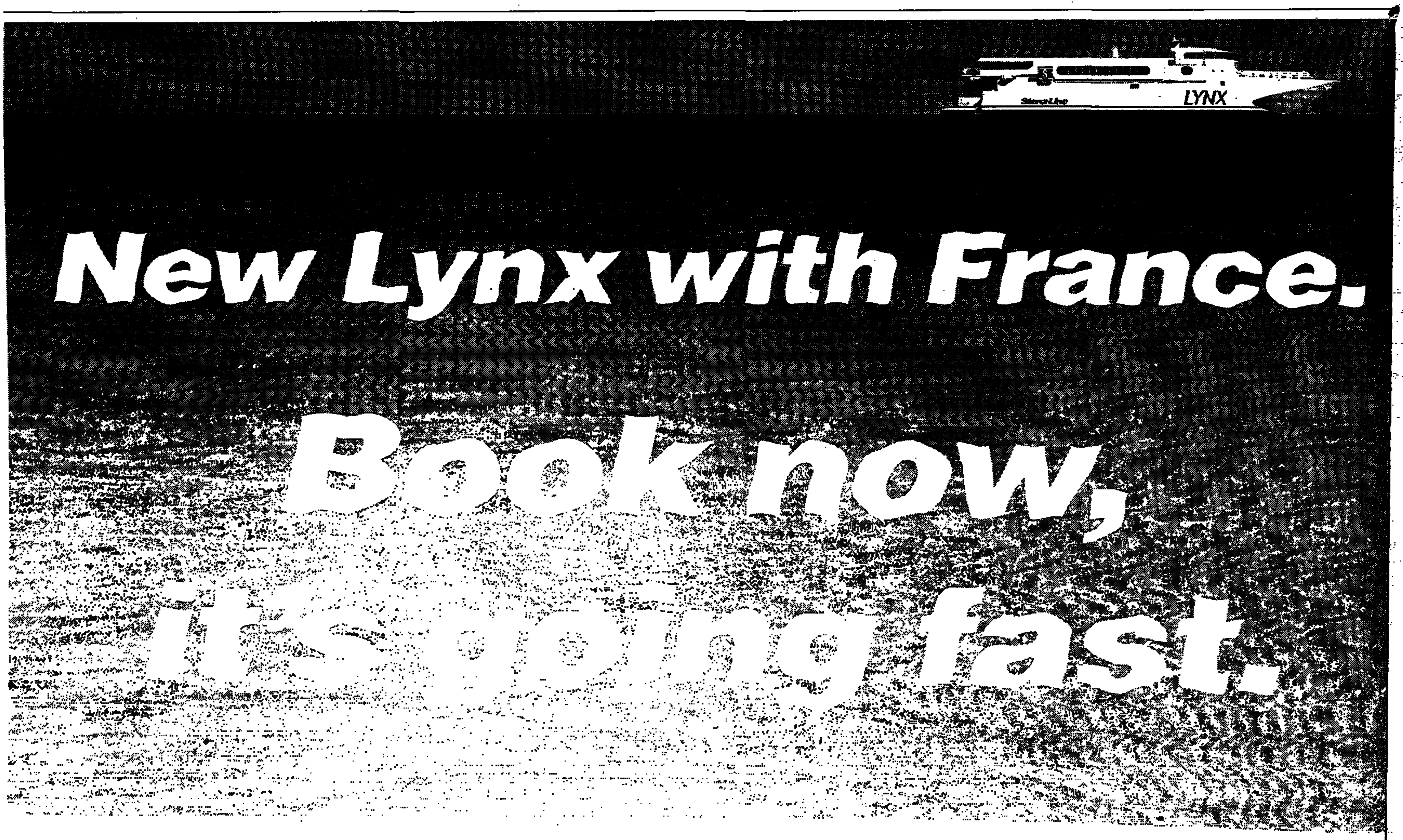
JILL CRAWSHAW

Legoland clicks into action

BRITAIN's new Legoland opens next Friday — and you'll be turned away when the park reaches its 12,000 capacity, no matter how far you've travelled. So it's best to book in advance.

The 150-acre site, on the Windsor to Bracknell road, Berkshire, has 17 rides, from a traditional carousel and ferris wheel to self-drive children's cars and a canoe ride which climaxes with a plunge down a flume. Other attractions (21 in all) include a politically correct circus (no animals), magic theatre, gold-panning area, puppet theatre and a cathedral to *Lego*, where fans can build dinosaurs, houses, cars and people. A Lego version of Tower Bridge, using 100,000 pieces, took 500 man hours to build.

● ***Legoland opening times, 10am-6pm daily (8pm July and August). Closes on September 29 for winter. Prebook on 0990 626364; adults £14, children £11. On the gate prices: £15, children £12***



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هكذا من الاصل

SKIING: In his last ski report until next season, **Doug Sager** explains how to keep up with the snow news

Snowstorms in cyberspace

Much has been made of "surfing the Net". Now skiers and snowboarders too have good reason to slide around the Internet. They can save money and book later for a better chance of good snow conditions. More information is available more instantly than ever before. But electronic access is no guarantee of accuracy.

"Within hours of the first snowflakes falling in the Alps, our phones were ringing off the hooks," says Susi Johnston of Alpine Answers, referring to the big storms in mid-February which saved this snow-starved season. And Ms Johnston is just one of many ski industry professionals to report an extraordinary sensitivity to snow reports this winter.

"People are becoming amazingly adept at balancing snow depths with the rise and fall of package prices," says Ms Johnston. Analysts at mainstream operators Crystal and Neilson agree. This has been the season of late bookers.

Skiers realise they can save hundreds of pounds playing the waiting game. But to win, they have to be experts at information technology.

The tour operators are anxious not to tout their cut-price deals too openly, neither wanting to antagonise the early bookers who paid full brochure prices nor to encourage the mass of the market to lie in wait too long, witholding deposits.

Often, special deals are brokered through specialist agencies only, such as Alpine Answers, which collates offers from scores of operators, or advertised only at the last minute. "The coming medium for late offers is the Internet," Ms Johnston says.

So far it is not tour operators hawking holidays but ski resorts, manufacturers of ski and snowboarding gear and the tourist offices of the Alpine countries, apart from Italy, which have taken enthusiastically to the Internet.

Access to accurate information on snow conditions is the secret of successful late booking, since rock-bottom offers are often a byword for brown pistes. Getting first news of major snowstorms means being able to book before prices rise to reflect deeper snow.

But when it comes to snow reports, who do you trust? Blackcomb mountain at Whistler, Canada, has the ultimate Internet answer. It is installing cameras on the slopes for live online video feeds. Mammoth Mountain in California, one of the most wired ski resorts in the world with three Internet sites, already has one web page dedicated to slopeside images from its "weather cam".

In theory the Internet promises the most immediate access to accurate snow reports. Cross-checking claims made by a tour operator with a resort or national tourist office should provide some protection.

At the end of the day, however, data is only as reliable as its source. Snow reports and other resort claims advertised on the sites of Swiss, Austrian and French national tourist organisations are input exactly as tourist directors send them in.

I have seen more than one tourist director send snow reports back to be "done again" by ski holiday reps, who depend on the goodwill of resort directors for free rooms, board and lift passes. Chalet company staff are equally motivated to take optimistic views.

The Internet promises no reprieve from the basic principle of computing — garbage in, garbage out. Already some compilers of snow report pages for national tourist offices are beginning to complain privately about "unrealistic" snow depths on the Internet pages of certain resorts in the Alps.

Live pictures from the slopes are one way to solve the problem. But it is more the variety of services and their immediate access than the accuracy of snow reporting that the Internet excels at. An Internet skier can dial up a resort to book a ski lesson, pass or hotel room, zoom into runs on a piste map and check restaurant menus.

America is leading the way when it comes to Internet bookings. The National Ski Areas Association there reports that 11 per cent of its member resorts can handle credit card transactions for accommodation and other services. European resorts lag far behind.

In North America, resorts have set up competing pages on the World Wide Web. Entertainment in the form of multi-media video and music clips shows skiers and snowboarders flying through the powder in full colour. But these images can be time- consuming for owners of older computers with modems slower than 28,800 bps.

Switzerland, France and Austria have taken a more nationalistic approach, including individual resorts in massive sites of thousands of pages dealing with general tourism.

Skiers can already take tours of the pistes online. Soon they will be able to take virtual tours of chalet accommodation. But for the moment using the Internet requires a great deal of patience, waiting for images to appear on screen and searching through hundreds of pages for a pay-off.

DOUG SAGER

Electronic access to snow reports helps skiers to choose their destinations more carefully

On-screen guides

THE Internet is not the only computer-based source of skiing information. Resorts are starting to issue CD-Rom discs instead of press dossiers. Several computer guides to ski resorts have appeared, mostly in America. They all have user-friendly databases and video graphics no book can compete with.

Britain's first on-screen ski guide threatens to make the two best-selling books, *The Good Skiing Guide* and *Where to Ski*, obsolete. Travelbug Software (01932 224008) offers 190 ski resorts and package holiday prices from 30 tour operators, in full colour, at the same price or less (£14.95) than its print competitors. The Travelbug will do what no book can — once you tell it your skiing ability and price range, it will inform you which tour operator's holiday and which resorts are ideal for you. It can even calculate extra costs such as ski school, lift passes and ski hire. No guidebook shows snow depths resort by resort, month by month. But Travelbug does that as well as providing a weekly index of tour operator prices for each resort. What it lacks are detailed full-colour piste maps to replace the small and poorly printed ones in both best-selling British guidebooks.

Travellers to America should check out Media Odyssey's SKI-CD, a comprehensive travel planner to 450 ski areas in the USA. However, its 800 direct-dial numbers to specific resorts will not work from the UK. Unlike Travelbug, SKI-CD includes sound and video clips as well as piste maps and photographs. SKI-CD costs around £10 and is available from Modyssey@aol.com or by phoning 001 303 293 3837.

SKIING THE INTERNET

☐ Skiing articles in *The Times* are available from the online version of this newspaper, with live hyperlinks to the addresses (URL's) below. Because of the nature of the Internet, site addresses and contents may change without notice. The online *Times* can be found at http://www.the-times.co.uk

☐ Weather and snow reports: http://www.anorak.co.uk — snow reports from the Ski Club of Great Britain.

☐ Detailed satellite weather maps of US: http://www.nova.edu/Inter-Links/misc/satelite.html

☐ The Alps: http://www.austria-info.at — 2,100 pages of tourist information on Austria, with maps and snow reports.

☐ http://www.skifrance.fr — 1400 pages on ski holidays in France, including snow and weather reports and accommodation in English and French.

☐ http://www.fr-holidaystore.co.uk — the Association of British Tour Operators to France offers 500 pages of summer and winter holiday details, with 25 pages devoted to skiing packages.

☐ http://www.SwitzerlandTourism.ch/ — general tourist information with full details of accommodation, ski schools and snow reports.

☐ http://www.whistler.net/blackcomb/ — resorts in North America. This is one of the most advanced resort pages on the web, from Blackcomb Mountain at Whistler.

☐ http://www.worldhost.com/skibanfflakelouise — central information depot for Lake Louise, Sunshine and Norquay resorts in Canada.

☐ http://www.rsn.com/ — snow reports from 548 resorts in 43 American states.

☐ http://s2.com/skiaspen — Aspen, Snowmass and Aspen Highlands information including flights and accommodation.

☐ http://vail.net — maps of the pistes and package offers direct from America's most popular resort.

☐ http://www.jacksonhole.com/ski — cowboy skiing on computer, images and information from Jackson Hole.

☐ Snowboarding: http://www.access.ch/isf/ — headquarters of the International Snowboard Federation, latest competition results plus biographies of the world's best riders.

☐ Other resources: http://www.snownet.com — compendium of skiing gear, clothing, books, clubs and worldwide resort information.

☐ http://www.travelbase.com/skiareas — industry information from American ski resorts and manufacturers.

☐ SkiNet: http://www.skinet.com — on-line information *from Ski Magazine* and *Skiing Magazine* on how to ski better, where to go and what to buy.

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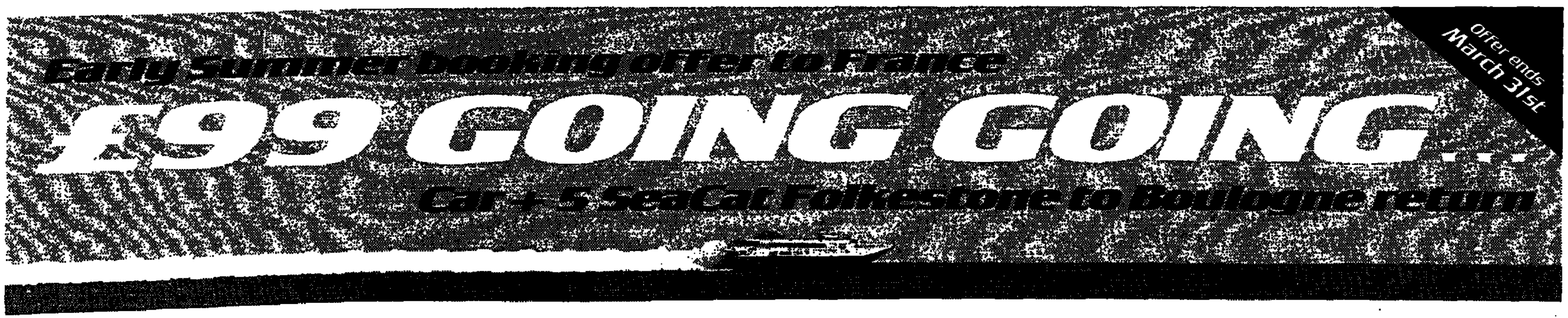
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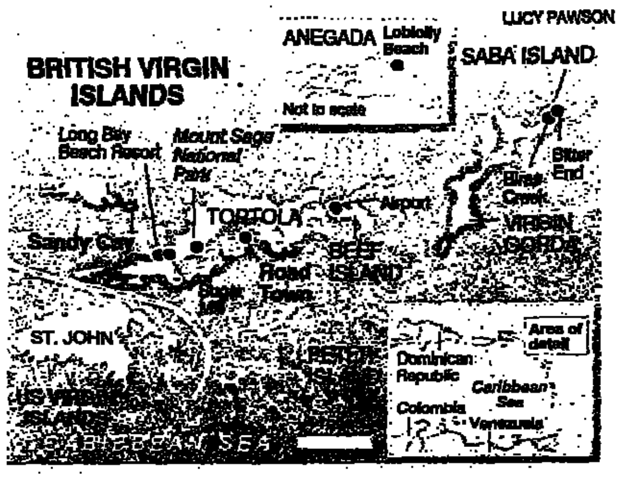
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS: The search for sun, solitude and life in slow motion ends on a tiny atoll

Sailing into a rich man's world



LUCY PAWSON

About halfway down the harbour front in Road Town, the capital of the British Virgin Islands, I found the sort of restaurant no resort should be without. This is the Cell Five Lounge, where a notice on the pavement offers the "Best Breakfast in the Caribbean", "Sumptuous Dinners", "Fantastic Drinks", "Great Lunches" and a "Steel Band" every Thursday.

This immodest selection might pull in the crowds but the best bit comes at the bottom, where guests are warned: "Sorry, we do not cater for people in a hurry." At last, the place I have been looking for all my life ... a slow food joint. Those who fancy a holiday where the pace of life is gentle need look no further.

The same might be said of the entire BVIs, an attractive litter of islands off the eastern coast of Puerto Rico — but you have to be selective. To stay on one island might not fill up the week, to dash about the lot would be to miss the whole point of the place. The best plan is to decide what you like doing and visit those islands best suited for that purpose.

The islands are perfect for honeymoons, sailing or just hanging about. That much is obvious on arrival. There is a great deal of swooning going on, the sea is carpeted with yachts and, when it comes to hanging about, the attractions of the BVIs are almost too numerous to mention. However, apart from the standard Caribbean joys of blue seas and sunny skies, these islands offer something that is hard to find — solitude. On a BVI beach, two really is a crowd — and these beaches stretch for miles on every island, sandy and safe.

This marvellous absence of crowds is explained by the fact that most visitors either arrive by yacht, stay on a yacht or go yachting. Sailing is one of the main activities. I usually get queasy walking on wet grass but I found myself on the *Thalassi*, a 90ft schooner which comes complete with a crew in designer T-shirts, taking a day-sail around Tortola for lunch off Sandy Cay.

Another attraction is the food which, if not cheap, is always good and heavy on local seafood. If you like lobster, then dinner at the Suger Mill hotel on Tortola or an alfresco lunch at the Big Bamboo beach café at Loblolly Beach on Anegada Island has to form part of the holiday.

Exploring the BVIs is fairly easy. Ferries, motor boats and light aircraft ply between the islands and travelling times are short — just half an hour by sea from Tortola to Virgin Gorda, a 12-minute hop from the Beef Island Airport to the most far-flung island, Anegada. Most of these side trips begin on Tortola, the main island of the group, home to the capital, Road Town, the Sage Mountain National Park — a good place to visit for hill walks and rare birds such as the pearl-eyed thrasher, which stubbornly refused to appear — and hotels like the excellent Long Bay Beach Resort, the base for my two-day stay.

TONY STONE

Balmy days: Cane Garden Bay, Tortola, the main island in the group, which is ideal for family groups and those who like a little entertainment

Tortola's other attractions include Bomba's Beach Bar, which keeps erratic hours, the Suger Mill restaurant, a number of small, colourful yachting ports and the local specific, a rum-based drink known as a Painkiller. Tortola is ideal for family groups and younger people who need a bit of nightlife, so a couple of days at Long Beach will do for Tortola before moving on to Peter Island.

Peter Island is a resort island and a haunt of the jet set, with just one hotel, a few villas and many regular guests. A couple I met in the bar were on their 29th visit. There isn't a lot to do on Peter Island so I spent a day dozing on the beach, dining on lobster in the restaurant, taking dips in the pool or exploring the potential of the beach bar, where the arrival of our small party doubled the daily takings. A few days doing nothing on Peter Island was beginning to feel like a very good idea when the *Thalassi* slid into the marina and took me off to Sandy Cay.

Sailing on a fully catered yacht for a day is a marvellous way to acquire a tan and discover how the rich live. If BVI yachtsmen are anything to go by, they live extremely well. As one retired millionaire remarked on Peter Island: "People who think that money can't buy happiness are shopping at the wrong store." This cruise displayed a good range of islands, green outcrops in a clear blue sea, and the following day took me to Guana.

Guana is a honeymoon island, very small, quiet and rather wonderful. It has one delightful hilltop hotel, seven empty beaches, flamingoes and pelicans, which plummet into the sea like broken umbrellas. Apart from walking, snorkelling and watching the pelicans, there is not a lot else to do but relax. Getting there from Tortola takes only ten minutes by speedboat but most people who go there never want to leave.

Island-hopping can become addictive. After a couple of days on one island you want to move to another one, and everyone in the British Virgin Islands insists that visitors go to Anegada.

Anegada is a real coral atoll, flat, arid and typically empty, just three miles wide and only 27ft above sea level, a place for people who like to get away from it all. To get there usually requires a short flight from Tortola because Anegada is fringed with reefs which make sailing there tricky, although they make the snorkelling and bone-fishing superb. To get about you need a mountain bike. The island has splendid beach cafés serving freshly caught lobster, and just one fine hotel, the Anegada Reef Hotel, a centre for expeditions on and off-shore.

The last major island of the group is Virgin Gorda, which does *not* belong to Richard Branson; he owns Necker Island, a mile or two offshore. Virgin Gorda looks a bit like Cornwall and a bit like the Seychelles, with an old tin mine, lots of splendid beaches and big, smooth rocks. It also has two resorts that make any stay memorable — Biras Creek, a hotel on a hill which looks a bit like a castle, and the larger resort hotel of Bitter End, consisting of cabins set on a hillside above the marina and the central bar and restaurant. It also has easy access to the Pirates Pub on Saba Island, a few hundred yards offshore, home to Feather, the dancing parrot, the centrepiece for some lively evenings.

The BVIs have all the holiday assets — sun, good food, turquoise seas, friendly people, empty beaches and no crime. Whether you want to sail, go there on honeymoon or just relax, the islands are hard to beat.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of Caribtours (0171-581 3517). A week at Long Bay Resort on Tortola costs from £778 (extra days from £31) excluding meals. A week on Peter Island costs from £1,096, with extra days costing from £74, including flights and transfers but excluding meals. A week on Guana costs from £1,922, extra days from £192, including all meals. Caribtours also offers holidays at Biras Creek and Bitter End on Virgin Gorda from £1,417 per person, including all meals, flights and transfers. Flights from Tortola to Anegada cost $50 (£31) return. Further information from Caribtours or the BVI Tourist Office (0171-240 4259).

☐ A useful publication detailing BVI facilities and attractions is *The Welcome* magazine, available from all the main hotels and the BVI Tourist Office.

☐ The BVIs have several National Parks, including the wreck of the steamer *Rhône*, the centre for a maritime park off Salt Island. Other parks include the Queen Elizabeth and Sage mountain parks on Tortola and the Diamond Cay and Great Tobago seabird sanctuaries. Scuba-diving and snorkelling are superb; details from Dive BVI on Virgin Gorda or Peter Island, or the UK Tourist Office.

☐ Car rental is available on the main islands from around $25 (£15) a day. Drivers must be aged 25 or over and have a full UK driving licence. Driving is on the left with a 40mph speed limit. The US dollar is the accepted local currency. Air departure tax $8 (£5).

☐ The islands enjoy good weather throughout the year, with temperatures staying around 90F, with little humidity.

☐ Getting around the BVIs is easy on a network of ferries and light aircraft. Full details from the BVI Tourist Office.

☐ Dress ranges from shorts to "smart-casual", but topless bathing and walking in residential areas with bare chests or midriffs is discouraged.

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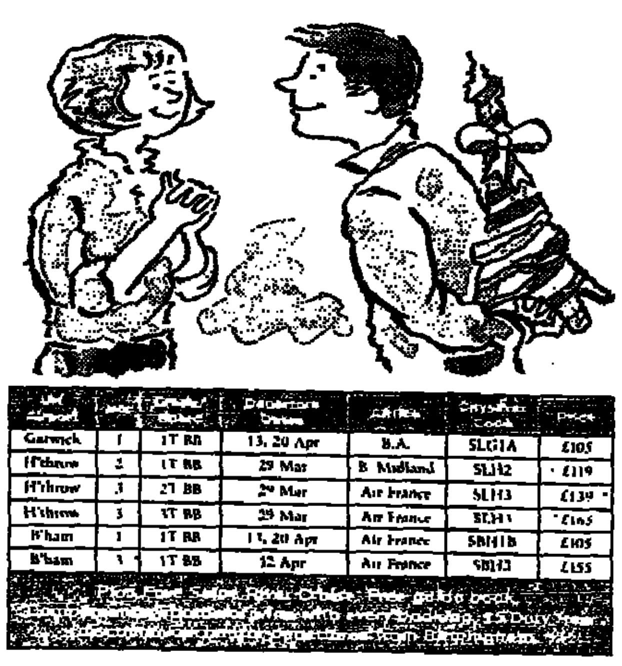

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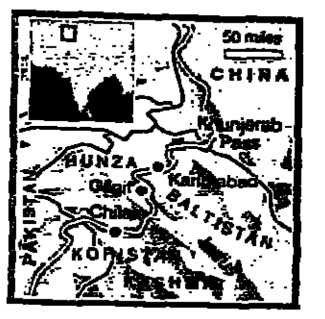
PAKISTAN: Neither bandits nor falling boulders can dim the excitement of a magical mountain pilgrimage

Gorges glint with garnets



Strobes of lightning pierced the darkness, electrifying the mass of the Hindu Raj. The lamps flickered and died. Within seconds, the jovial manager of Chilas's finest hotel was at my side, bearing light and comfort. "This is nothing," he grinned, his face blue in the neon glow. "During the monsoons the guests were stuck here for a week."

Chilas is a rest stop along the Karakoram Highway — and not a place in which to linger. In the Kohistan region forbidding mountains offer sanctuary to all manner of bandits. Each village boasts a "killing tower", the better to take pot shots at enemies. It used to be called Yaghistan — Land of the Ungoverned — and old habits die hard.

Cocooned by Irfan, our guide, and Muzamal, our driver, we marvelled in safety at this primitive otherness. We were travelling northeast along the Karakoram Highway to the Khunjerab Pass in an air-conditioned minibus. Twenty years ago, the region was accessible only via perilous jeep tracks.

This stretch of the KKH opened in 1978: 685km of road blasted through the mountains of the Northern Areas of Pakistan at a cost of 800 lives (some sources claim 2,500). Centuries-old graffiti carved into the rocks from Gandharan Swat to China mark the progress of Buddhist pilgrims and merchants along this branch of the historic Silk Road.

Today, the journey is still difficult. Muzamal sped through an earthquake zone where the valley narrows to a sheer granite gorge and the Indus sluices 500m below. The view is breathtaking, if heart-stopping. Signs warn of landslides, and a little farther on the road has been potted by a rockfall. The Sisyphean task of keeping the KKH in passable shape falls to the Frontier Works Organisation, which logs details of all foreigners braving this route. Naturally, there are no guard rails to thwart the will of Allah.

Then a miracle occurred. We rounded a bend and the claustrophobic pass yielded a spectacular panorama — the junction of the mighty Hindu Raj, Karakoram and Himalayan ranges spread like ramparts across the horizon.

Formerly a collection of princely states, the Northern Areas are in the limbo of dispute — claimed by Kashmir but administered by Islamabad. A babel of tongues can be heard in the tribal hotchpotch of the regional capital, Gilgit Town: Shia and Sunni Muslims gather here, with occasionally explosive results. Then, of course, there are the spies.

"Someone had better go with you," warned Irfan when I announced a shopping trip to Gilgit. He was taking no chances. It seems the 19th-century obsession with spies lives on. A burly chaperone was appointed and we set off through the metropolitan shanty of the Cinema Bazaar in search of carpets, jewellery and scarves.

I loved Gilgit, with its buzz of intrigue and romance. I loved the oh-so-un British polo matches, virtuoso free-for-alls played on dusty ground to the accompaniment of pipes and drums. I even enjoyed the unforgettable drench-and-freeze experience of white-water rafting on the glacial Gilgit River, secure in the knowledge that warmth waited at the hotel.

We forged on into the magical land of Hunza, stopping to gather garnets which rain down a mineral-studded seam of rock. Serrated mountains, eight of which soar above 7,000m, dominated the drive. We passed abandoned villages perched high on crumbling outcrops which time will plunge into oblivion. The capital, Karimabad, 1km above the highway, is accessible only by four-wheel drive.

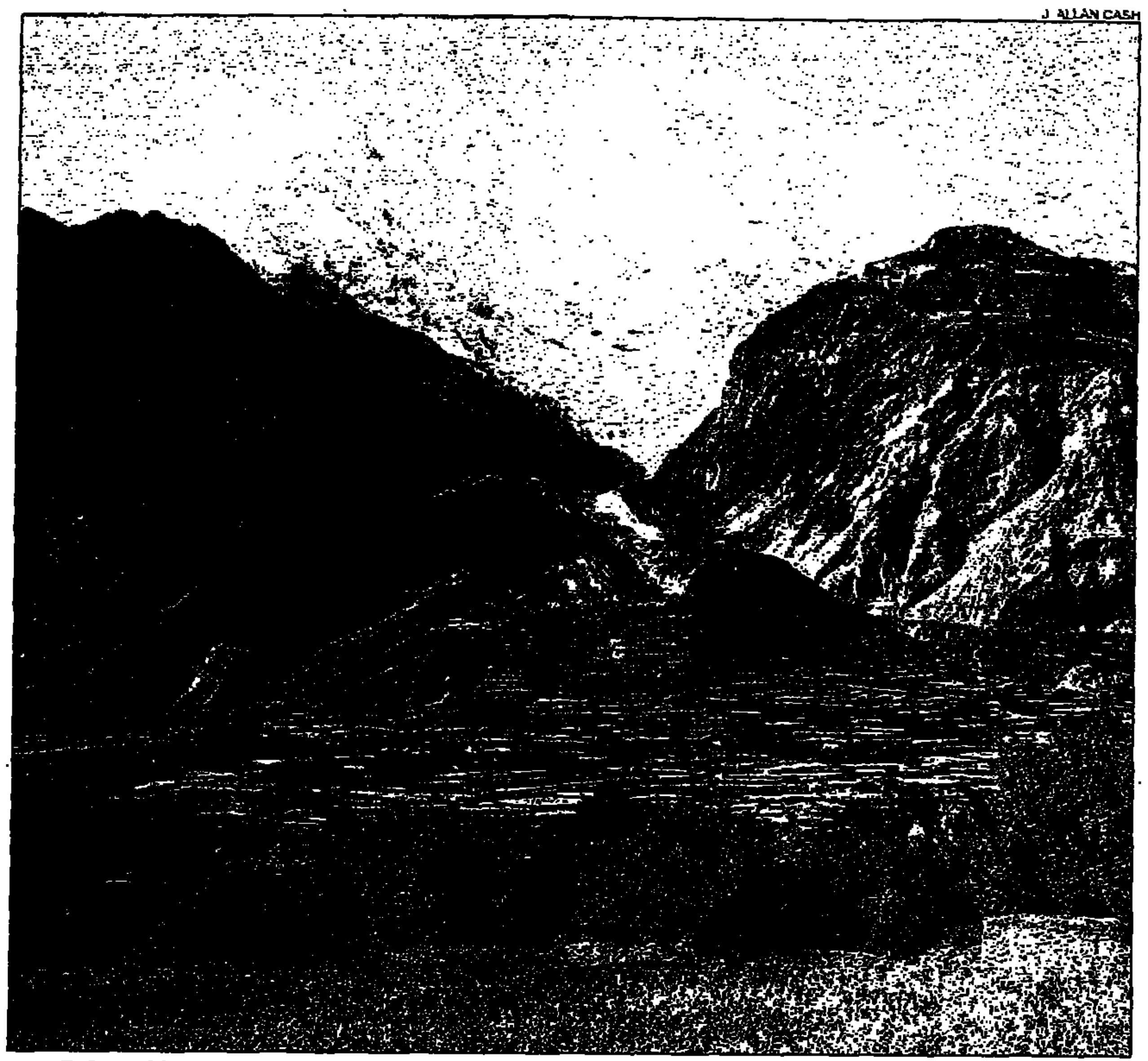
Despite the Hunzakuts' legendary longevity — the result, apparently, of a daily diet of apricots and gold-rich water — I saw no old crones. Instead, I saw women for the first time in 300km. They were brightly dressed and lightly veiled over hand-embroidered pillbox hats as they skipped across dizzying, slatted bridges.

Stockpiling for winter, they collect vegetables and fodder: in a patchwork of colour tomatoes, spinach and pumpkins are spread on the rooftops to dry. Inside, extended families huddle in a single room.

Men who were once the scourge of the caravan routes, enriching the coffers of the ruling tribe with their plunder, have become peaceable farmers. Their children daily trail satchels to school. The descendants of the erstwhile rulers, no longer engaged in fratricidal wars of succession, have abandoned their stronghold of Baltit Fort for a less lofty modern residence, complete with satellite dish. Politics have been traded for commerce. The effects of Star TV and the burgeoning hotel industry lie not far behind.

But once among the yaks on the remote plains of the Khunjerab Pass, any such fears evaporate. At 4,700m, I stood lightheaded on the highest paved road in the world. Journey's End. Our guide, resplendent against the yellowing wilderness, was in the traditional Hunzakut costume of long white coat with wizard-sleeves tapering to the ground. Even he is shivering in the sub-zero winds. He magics a dram of the illegal mulberry Hunza Water — proof against the cold. It works wonders. Perhaps this is the secret of the Hunzakuts' longevity.

TERESA LEVONIAN COLE


J. ALLAN CASH

Rakaposhi's peak soars over the Hunza Valley, where garnets rain down mineral-studded seams of rock

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of Cox & Kings (0171-873 5000) and of Walji Travel, Pakistan. Cox & Kings offers 16-day trips through the North West Frontier Province and Northern Areas of Pakistan from April to October. Prices from £1,545 per person.

☐ Pakistan International Airlines has three direct flights per week to Karachi and two to Islamabad from London (0171-734 5544), starting from £528 return (Karachi) and £624 return (Islamabad).

☐ The five-hour bus journey to Madyan from Islamabad bus station costs just over £1. Fida Mohammad's Caravans Guest House on Madyan Road (ask for directions at Muambar Khan's shop) has double rooms with cold shower from £1.50. For £5-plus, smarter accommodation can be had at the VIP Hotel (telephone 4599) or at the River Palace (42). There is no direct dialling service to Madyan from the UK.

☐ Immunisation against malaria, cholera, typhoid, yellow fever, polio, meningitis, hepatitis and tetanus is recommended.

☐ Drink only sealed and bottled water. Avoid ice and salads, and peel all fruit.

☐ Alcohol is prohibited in Pakistan, apart from one bar at the Pearl Continental in Peshawar. With a liquor permit, alcohol can be drunk in hotel rooms.

☐ A departure tax of 200 rupees (£4) — 300 (£6) in business class, 400 (£8) in first class — is levied on leaving Pakistan.

☐ *Pakistan Trekking Guide* £11.95; *Introduction to Pakistan*, £8.95, both by Odyssey. Lonely Planet's Travel Survival Kit for Pakistan, £9.95.

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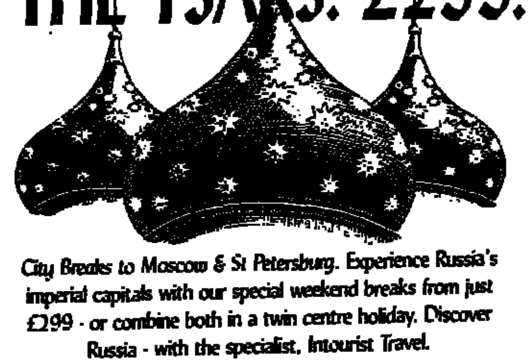
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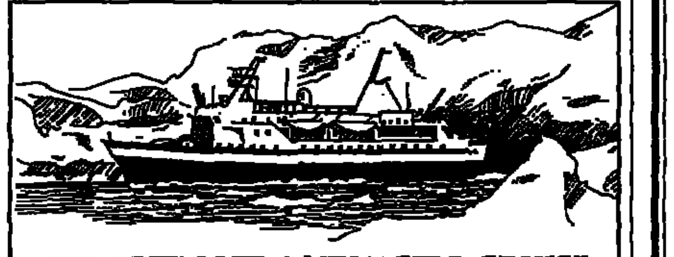
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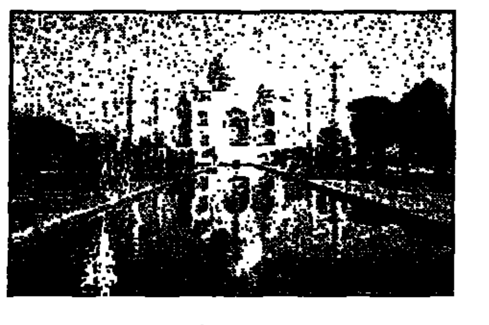
A Few Days in Rajasthan

9 days from £595.00

visiting Delhi, Agra (Taj Mahal), Fatehpur Sikri and Jaipur with an optional extension to Udaipur or Jordan (Amman and Petra)

Not everyone wants to go on a whistle-stop tour around India, getting up at dawn, packing and unpacking every day. Nor are some of those people consoled by the beauty of the place when balanced with the discomforts and the lack of facilities in the remoter areas. This tour therefore is designed to be leisurely and comfortable within the context of India and aims to explore three major areas in depth, allowing sufficient time for independent sightseeing or simply to relax in the shade of a banyan tree, perhaps in a beautiful garden or watching the inimitable sunset.

Our itinerary commences with a flight from London Heathrow to Delhi for a two-night stay at the Hotel Kanishka. During our stay visits will be made to both Old and New Delhi and in particular the Red Fort and the Lutyens-designed centre of the city. From Delhi we travel south to Agra, where the route allows a glimpse of the Indian countryside, for a one-night stay in the Ashok Hotel, our base for visiting the Taj Mahal.

We continue our exploration of Rajasthan by travelling to Fatehpur Sikri where we make a short visit before proceeding to Jaipur and the Ashok Hotel for a two-night stay. In Jaipur we will visit the Amber Fort by elephant before returning to Delhi for the last two nights before our return to London Heathrow.

Itinerary

Day 1 In the morning depart with Royal Jordanian Airlines from London Heathrow via Amman and fly through the night arriving in Delhi the following morning.

Day 2 Delhi - arrive in Delhi and transfer to our hotel with time to settle in and, for those with the energy, to explore independently.

Day 3 Delhi - our exploration commences with a tour of New Delhi - we visit Humayun's tomb and further into the southern suburbs reach the pinnacle of the Qut'b Minar. In the afternoon drive to Old Delhi taking in the Jama Masjid mosque, the Red Fort, and trace the path of the Indian Mutiny with a visit to Skinner's Church and see the Kashmir Gate, Metcalfe House, the first Regal Lodge (now part of Delhi University), the Civil Lines and the memorial to those who fell in 1857.

Day 4 Agra - after breakfast we depart by road for Agra, 125 miles from Delhi allowing us a brief glimpse of the Indian countryside and village life. We stop at Sikandra to visit the tomb of Akbar. Completed in 1613, it combines features of both Hindu and Moslem architecture. Shortly after we arrive in Agra.

Day 5 Agra - this morning make a tour of the city and visit the Taj Mahal for a close inspection of the fine and detailed inlay work. We will also take in the massive fort. In the afternoon travel by road on the 140-mile journey to the city of Jaipur. En route we pause at the deserted site of Fatehpur Sikri - a complete township built by emperor Akbar but which was deserted after 17 years as the wells ran dry.

Day 6 Jaipur - depart on a city sightseeing tour including the city palace which is in the heart of the old city, now a museum. We will also see Jantar Mantar, the fascinating astrological observatory built by Jai Singh in 1728, and the Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds). Travel outside Jaipur to the gleaming Amber Fort built in 1592 which is reflected in the lake below. The traditional mode of ascent to the fort is by a short elephant ride.

Day 7 The morning is free. In the afternoon we commence the return journey to Delhi travelling by road and arriving in the late afternoon.

Day 8 The whole day is free in Delhi for independent sightseeing.

Day 9 There is an early morning transfer to the airport to board the flight from Delhi via Amman arriving at Heathrow in the afternoon.

Udaipur Extension

You may, if you so wish, extend your visit in Rajasthan by two nights to include a visit to Udaipur. The itinerary would then be as follows:

Day 7 Udaipur - fly from Jaipur to Udaipur and transfer to the hotel.

Day 8 Sightseeing of Udaipur.

Day 9 Fly from Udaipur to Delhi for a two-night stay.

Day 10 The whole day is free.

Day 11 Fly from Delhi to London arriving in the afternoon.

Amman & Petra Extension

Alternatively you may elect to stopover in Amman for two nights at the end of your stay in India with visits to Petra and Jerash. The itinerary would then be as follows:

Day 9 Fly from Delhi to Amman. Tour the city and visit Jerash.

Day 10 A full-day tour to Petra.

Day 11 Return flight to London Heathrow arriving in the afternoon.

Please note: that these extensions can only be booked in advance at the same time as making the main booking.

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Prices include: air travel, internal transportation and transfers as necessary, bed and breakfast meal basis, lunch in Amman and Petra, excursions in each city, local guides.

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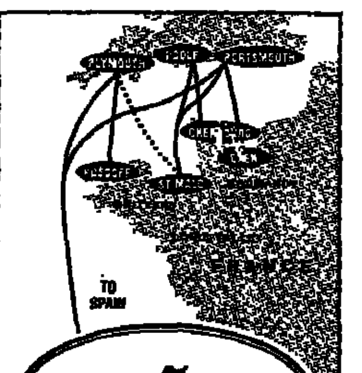
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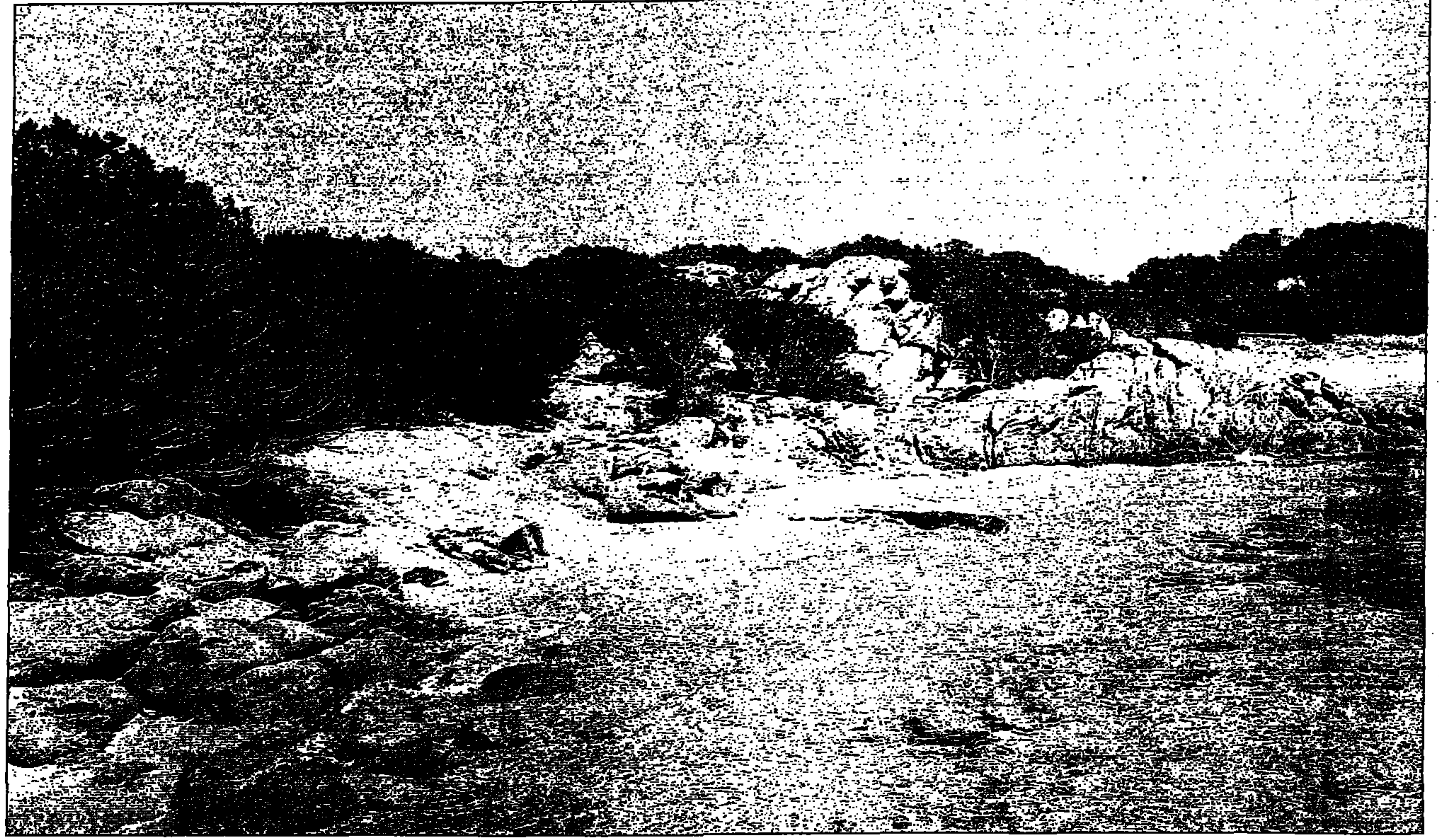
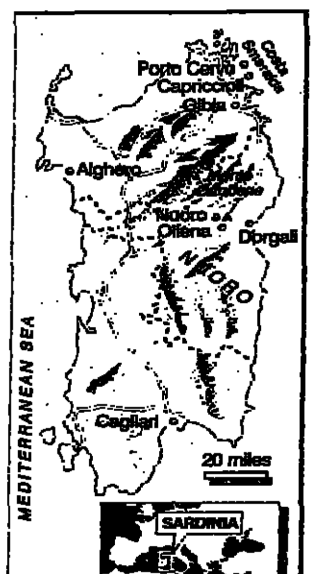
SARDINIA: With all that the island has to offer, **Brigid Callaghan** wonders why it is not more crowded

When life is an empty beach


PICTURES

The idyllic scene at one of the beautiful, unspoiled coves on Sardinia's Costa Smeralda. Beyond the beaches, in the heart of the island, is the mountain greenery of the Nuoro region



An island with some of the best beaches in the Mediterranean — as well as a wild, mountainous interior, sunshine from May to October, inexpensive accommodation and good food — ought to be high in the British holiday top ten. Yet Sardinia has few visitors from these islands which, for those British who do go, is part of its charm.

Paradoxically, the money poured into and the publicity generated by the best-known part of the island, the Costa Smeralda, may have decreased Sardinia's appeal by persuading us it is only for the very wealthy holidaymaker. This part of the northeastern coast, with custom-built villages, marinas and glamorous hotels, can be a very expensive destination. Or it can provide a two-week self-catering holiday for four, flights and car included, for just over £500 a head.

Capriccioli, on a headland at the southern end of the Costa Smeralda about 45 minutes' drive from the airport at Olbia, is not far from Porto Cervo, the coast's glitzy boutique and boat-laden "capital", but its mood is entirely different. Here there is one quiet hotel, several private villas, a mini market, the self-catering Residenza Capriccioli and five beaches.

Bang on one of the prime Mediterranean coasts, it is peaceful, informal and private, and you can dine in the relaxed restaurant of the Hotel Capriccioli without breaking the bank. In early June last year the sun shone, the sea was warm and the residenza was virtually deserted.

In July and August, when the mainland Italians arrive, Residenza Capriccioli's 30 single or two-storey houses and tennis court will be considerably busier. The aim of the residenza is to combine the benefits of self-catering and hotel accommodation, an idea which particularly appeals to families; there is a reception office and staff but unless you need their help you will only see them when picking up and dropping off your key.

Inside, the houses have white, rough-cast walls, tiled floors, fragrant furniture of local wood, iron bedsteads, efficient bathrooms and kitchens (all have washing machines, some have dishwashers). Outside, most have a small, shaded garden with a table at which you can eat and stone paths wind between the houses to the shrubby *macchia* that leads down to the sea. The beaches and the hotel are a five-minute walk away.

For the mountains you will have to travel further, to the province of Nuoro, the heart of the island, also known as Barbagia because the Romans called its vanquished but not subdued citizens "civitates barbariae". This is a region not only of mountains but also barren plains, forests of holm oak, chestnut, hazelnut, holly, oak, juniper, the homeland of shepherds. It is two and a half hours' drive from the Costa Smeralda (there is a slower, prettier route off the motorway) and although Nuoro, the chief town of the area, is described as "a well-known tourist centre", it doesn't feel like it.

D.H. Lawrence on his journey through Sardinia in 1921 said there was nothing to see in Nuoro and this was a compliment. Even though the town now has a folk museum and has turned the former home of Grazia Deledda, the second woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, into a shrine, there is still nothing to do in Nuoro other than enjoy it.

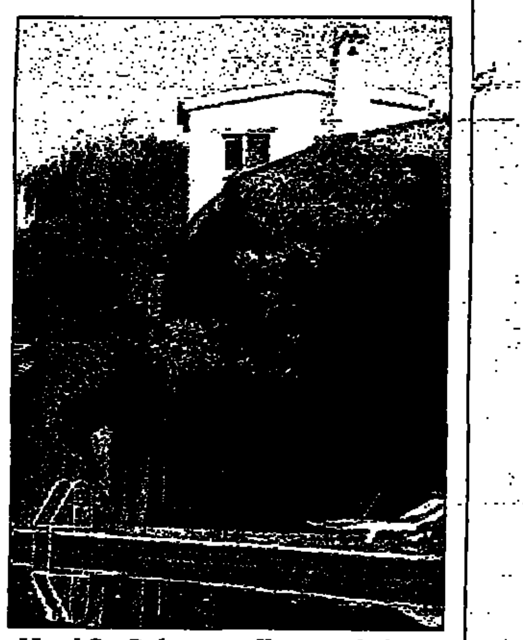
Walk around the old quarter or up the Corso Garibaldi to shop for pecorino, to stop for an espresso by the *Il Tempo* newsstand on the Piazetta del Popolo and to buy an English translation of one of Deledda's novels in the book store.

Nuoro is a hill town beneath Monte Ortobene; the smaller town of Oliena, about 15 minutes' drive away, is overshadowed by Monte Corrasi and, just off the narrow road from Oliena to Dorgali, the Hotel Su Gologone looks out over a plain from the foot of soaring limestone hills. The hotel takes its name from the nearby spring, which feeds its swimming pool, and its three-star comforts make it a good base for exploring the region.

Or you could happily spend a week here enjoying luxury amid bleakly beautiful surroundings. As well as its pool, the hotel offers a very good restaurant, two tennis courts and Land Rover or horseback outings (it has its own stables) into the wilds of Barbargia.

Some rooms, which are scattered across the grounds with interconnecting walkways, have large private terraces for sunbathing, reading, listening to the bells of the goats as they come down from the hills at dusk. This was once bandit as well as goatherd country, and it may still be. When we arrived the hotel was full of young men in military-style uniform; we were told they were policemen from the mainland, here to investigate the kidnap of a businessman in a nearby town. Not an urgent investigation, apparently, as they spent most of their days around the pool.

Sardinia fact file


Hotel Su Gologone offers good views

☐ The author was a guest of Voyages Ilena, which offers personally selected self-catering and hotel accommodation throughout the island.

☐ Getting there: Voyages Ilena's holidays include charter flights from Gatwick (it can also arrange scheduled flights from Heathrow) to Olbia (north east), Cagliari (south) or Alghero (north west). For flights only: Holiday Options (0171-637 4422) offer return flights (to all three airports from Gatwick) from £169.

☐ Prices: two weeks for two people at the Residenza Capriccioli on the Costa Smeralda costs from £717 per person in the low season (before June 10 or after September 9) to £1,247 per person in the high season (from July 29 to August 26). Two weeks for four costs from £533 per person to £906 per person. All prices include flights, car hire and personal travel insurance. The residenza has houses sleeping up to eight.

If you do not wish to drive, Voyages Ilena can provide reduced-price holidays at suitable properties or hotels. One-week holidays at the residenza can also be arranged at about 75 per cent of the two-week price.

A week at the Hotel Su Gologone on half board costs from £687 per person to £827 per person, based on two people sharing a room and including flights, car hire and personal travel insurance.

Private villas are also available. The Villa Donatello, in the north, takes up to six and costs from £628 per person for two weeks, including flights, car hire and insurance.

More details from Voyages Ilena, 1 Old Gardens House, The Lanterns, Bridge Lane, London SW11 3AD (0171-924 4440; fax 0171-924 4441).

☐ Weather: late May, June, September and early October are seasons which Sardinians consider cardigan weather, but sunbathing and swimming can usually be guaranteed. These also happen to be the cheaper low seasons. July and August will be very hot inland.

☐ Festivals: Sardinia has more than 1,000 festivals throughout the year. At many you are offered a traditional lunch and wine tasting. For a list of festivals and their dates, call the Italian State Tourist Board's brochure line (0891 600280; 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p at all other times) and ask for their *Traveller's Handbook*.

☐ Reading: D.H. Lawrence's *Sea and Sardinia* (Olive Press, £6.95) describes his sea journey from Palermo to Cagliari and then through Sardinia; much of the interior of the island seems to be little changed. The *Insight Guide* to Sardinia (APA Publications Ltd., £12.99) is usually available at airports and gives good background information, travel tips, small maps and guides to the four provinces of the island.

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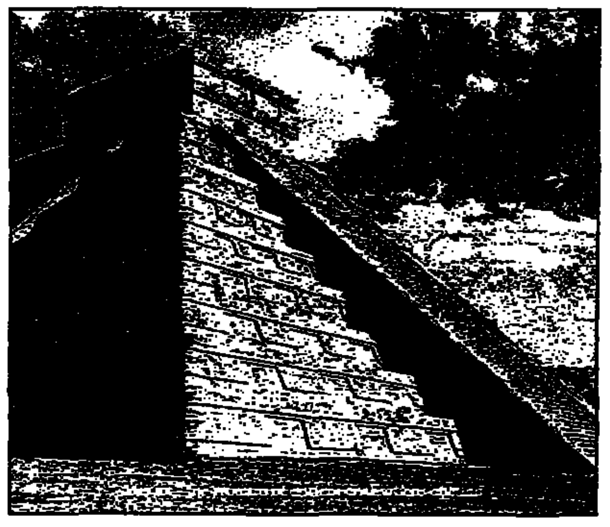
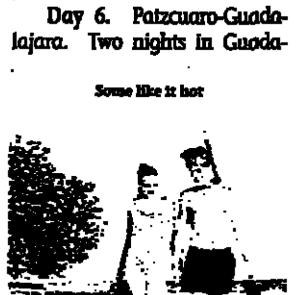

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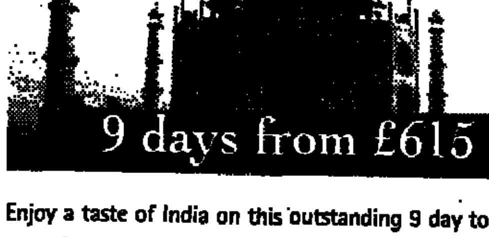
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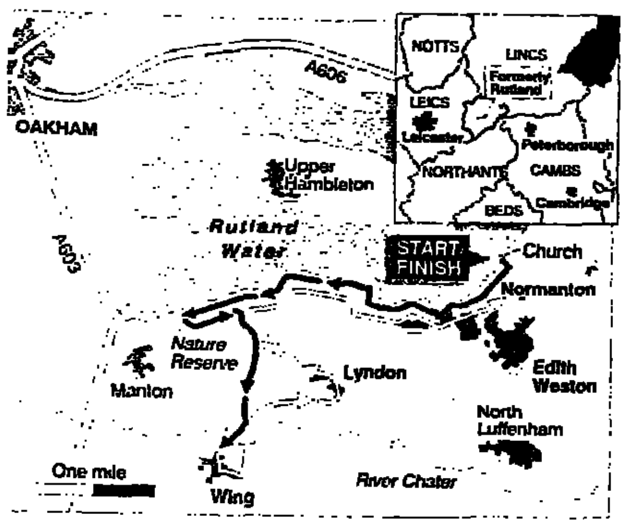
هكذا من الاجل

RUTLAND: A lakeside stroll through villages of Middle England that have battled to preserve their identity

A rootle round an ancient county



Normanton Church sits half submerged on a stony spit jutting into Rutland Water, looking curiously like a moored ship. I climbed aboard to find that tonnes of concrete have been pumped into the crypt to prevent it from sinking, and that the nave and transept now house the Normanton Church Water Museum. Its purpose: to explain all you could ever want to know about turning 3,000 prime agricultural acres into a lake the size of Windermere.

As an engineering project, this is a doddle, apparently. You simply build a dam and pump water into a valley. But that's reckoning without the impact on the people you intend to flood, especially if they are the middlest of Middle Englanders. The story gave me plenty to mull over as I strode westwards along the perimeter cycle and foot path, to begin my ten-mile rootle round Rutland.

It all began in 1974, when Edward Heath's Local Government Act ordered that England's smallest county be swallowed whole by its neighbour, Leicestershire. The double whammy was completed when, hot on the heels of this affront, came the decision to build the massive "Empingham Reservoir" to supply the burgeoning towns of the East Midlands with water. Two villages (Nether and Middle Hambleton) were to disappear forever.

The cry of the Rutlander was heard not only in Leicester town hall, but in Westminster. Border signs of the colonising county were torn down and Rutland's own defiantly erected, complete with ancient coat of arms and motto proclaiming *Multum in Parvo* (much in little). Rutland's identity became the symbol of opposition to the reservoir.

They lost the war though battles were won along the way, such as changing the name to Rutland Water. But nowadays, even the most diehard Rutlanders will reluctantly admit that benefits have surfaced out of the destructive waters.

The path follows an incontestably beautiful lake, its bays and inlets blending into the hillscape as if it were as old and as natural. And who could begrudge the peaceful anglers hunched over their rods like Jeremy Fishers? Or the windsurfers ripping silently across the surface like brightly-coloured tropical insects?

The village of Edith Weston, once about as far away from watersports as it is possible to get in Britain, is now home to the Rutland Sailing Club. Cleats were clinking on aluminium, in a marina full of dinghies with swaying masts.

Not that Rutland Water is a sporting free-for-all. As part of Anglian Water's policy of "balanced, sustainable tourism" for which it boasts an EU environmental award, motor boats are banned, and sailing is restricted to about half the lake. The rest is for the waterfowl and other birds which dive, wade and nest at the other end of the lake.

The perimeter path took me to the edge of one of these wetland areas, which has been fenced off as Lyndon Nature Reserve. With a daily permit (£1.20, students and children 50p) from the Lyndon Visitor Centre, I was free to wander down soggy, arcane trails, canopied with greenery, to the marshy shore. A wooden hide looked out over this swamp of lagoons and shallows where the River Gwash flows into the reservoir. The peace was broken only by the occasional whirring of wings followed by a screech or a splash.

After losing my way down a dead-end trail and sinking almost up to my knees in squelch, I left the reserve and crossed the lakeside road to take a footpath signposted with an acorn emblem, over the fields to Wing. As the trail crossed the Peterborough to Birmingham railway, the village of tightly clustered, honey-coloured cottages topped with Collyweston roof tiles came enchantingly into view. Here was another face of Rutland, which was probably typical of the antediluvian shire — a sleepy village shop and post office, rose-covered cottages, and a squat church with a thick, block-like tower.

Wing's particular curiosity is a medieval penitential maze said to be one of only three surviving in England. Carved out of turf, it is rather like a giant version of a child's comic book puzzle. The idea was that sinners could do penance by finding their way, on their knees, to the centre, praying as they went. I thought up a few things to be contrite about (easy enough), and had a go. I can reveal that on your knees, without the bird's eye view you get standing up, it is far more complicated.

So, unabsolved, I made my way to the Cuckoo Inn for a pint of Ruddles (brewed in nearby Langham) and met a trio of old-timer Rutlanders with firm views about county status and the reservoir.

The consensus was something like this: "We'll never forgive the loss of the two villages, though in the end Rutland Water has turned out not too bad. But if it hadn't been for us locals putting the pressure on, it would all have been very different. And Rutland must be officially its own county again." In fact, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, last week granted Rutland the status of a "unitary authority" from April 1, 1997.

From Wing, another cross-country path to Lyndon passed grand, clock tower-crowned Lyndon Hall and the thatched cottages of former estate workers, before a long avenue of oaks and ashes led back to the lake. Few places can be quite so redolent of the Middle English squirearchy.

I traced my steps back along the perimeter path to Normanton, pondering on what would have happened had Rutland Water chosen, or been allowed, to host theme parks, water slides and fast food restaurants instead of nature reserves, sailing and hiking trails. Would Rutlanders have come to terms with the course of history so easily?

MARTIN SYMINGTON

ROBERT HARDING

Normanton Church rises proudly above the water like a curiously moored ship

Fact file

☐ The ten-mile walk (fairly simple): Follow the lakeside path westwards to Lyndon Nature Reserve. Go through it, then retrace footsteps to the reserve entrance, and turn right for the track up to the main road. At the crossroads, take the footpath marked by an acorn sign through the fields, cross the footbridge over the River Chater, and turn right at the first foot crossing over the railway. A few hundred yards on is another crossing. Go over this and continue into Wing. The maze is well signposted. The Cuckoo Inn is on Main Street. From the maze cross over the main street and carry straight on until you cross the first level crossing. At the Chater bridge, turn right onto a well-signposted footpath through woods and farmland to Lyndon. From here, follow the avenue back to the crossroads. Return to the lakeside path and follow it to Normanton. Allow five leisurely hours with stops.

☐ Hambleton Hall Hotel (01572 756991), opposite Lyndon Nature Reserve, is a country house hotel. Doubles from £115 B&B.

☐ Lyndon Nature Reserve is open weekends 10am–4pm to end of April, and daily during the two-week Easter break. Then daily 10am-4pm (except Monday) May to the end of October.

☐ Normanton Church Museum is open daily 11am-4pm from March 30 to September 29. Adults 60p, children 30p.

☐ Rutland Water Tourist Information, 01780 460321.

☐ *Pub Walks in Leicestershire and Rutland* by Bryan Waites (Countryside Books, £4.95) is available locally.

☐ Ordnance Survey Pathfinder Sheet SK 80/90 covers the area.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

HILARIA

(c) A festival in honour of Cybele, celebrated at the vernal equinox. The neuter plural of the Latin *hilaris* cheerful, whence *hilarious* and the *hilary* terms at the older universities. "April Fool's Day resembles the Hilaria of ancient Rome (March 25) and the Huli festival of India."

NUBK

(a) A spiny, evergreen shrub or tree of the genus *Zizyphus*, especially *Zizyphus spina-Christi*, belonging to the family Rhamnaceae, native to north Africa and south-western Asia and bearing edible fruit. Laurence Durrell, *Clea*, 1960: "The nubk forms the great circular palisade of trees which encircles the Moslem Paradise."

METTWURST

(a) A type of smoked German sausage. The Deutsch name. "Mettwurst can be found in the form of a small sausage ('ends') or a horseshoe-shaped Westphalian ring. Very heavily smoked, lightly spiced, no garlic. Mettwurst is eaten cold, sliced, but is also very good poached, sliced fairly thickly and served with boiled potatoes and cabbage."

KHATAK

(a) In Tibet, a scarf presented to visitors. From the Tibetan *k'a-btdgs*, a scarf of salutation. "The traditional ceremony of exchanging white silk khataks, scarf tokens of goodwill usually decorated with swastikas."

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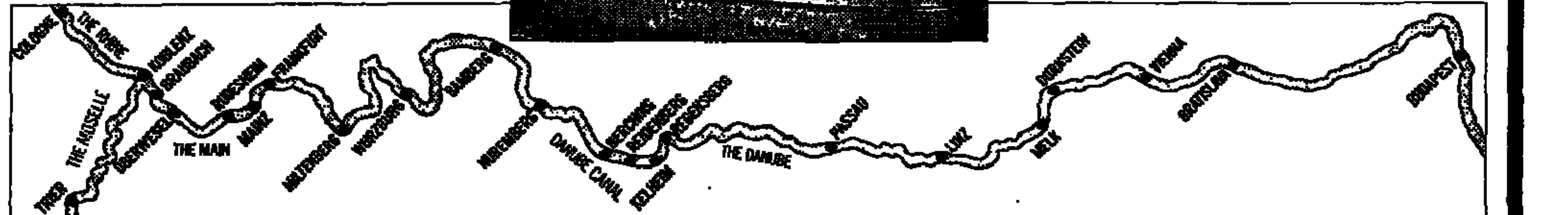

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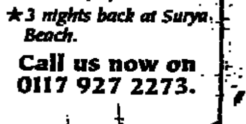

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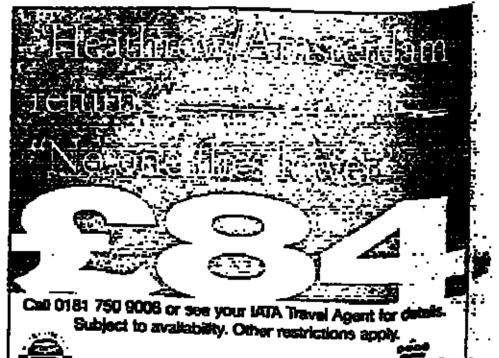

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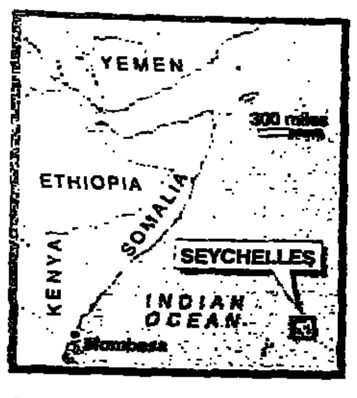
It became so dangerous for the aircraft that, during a closed period on Bird Island, a licensed marksman was brought in and, over a 14-day period, he shot more than 500 rabbits. There were no survivors.

And the birds? Oh yes, there are birds. One-and-a-half million sooty terns come to nest between May and October. Throughout the year there are curlew sandpipers, Indian mynahs, Madagascar fodies, plovers, egrets and many more. It is also home to an elderly chap rather perversely called Esmeralda — at 200, reputedly the world's oldest tortoise.



You can base yourself in a smart hotel on, say, the biggest island of Mahé and enjoy the spectacular scenery, the varied beaches and the snorkelling and scuba-diving. But the alternative that we pursued was to stay in smaller guest houses exploring some of the other islands. Which is how I found myself on Silhouette — a 15-minute helicopter flight from Mahé.

Silhouette is another treasure from the Seychelles' box of delights. They say that many pirates were buried here and, of course, lots of treasure.

Unlike Bird Island, it is mountainous and largely covered with rainforest. There seems to be an almost permanent crown of clouds set on its highest peak. There are no roads, just a few tracks, and it was while following one of these through the trees at the back of the coral-encrusted beach that I had a weird experience.

I was suddenly aware that the trees were filled with thousands of sleeping fruit bats. The trouble is that I have been watching too many horror films for, like a vampire, I was not throwing any shadow on the ground.

All right, the sun is directly overhead on the Equator in the middle of the day, but on the doorposts of the cottages of nearly all the island's 200 inhabitants, they had scrawled JHS — *Jésus homme sauveur* — a prayer to ward off evil spirits.

La Digue is different again. The fourth-largest of the islands, it has a small network of roads and tracks to get you from one beautiful beach to another by bicycle or ox cart. It was here that they shot part of that fashionable 1970s soft-focus, soft porn film *Emmanuelle*. The large thatched mansion with the broad verandahs where many of the scenes were set is still there — but not open to the public. They don't much talk now about *Emmanuelle* — especially as the President of the Seychelles, Albert René, has occasionally used it as a weekend cottage.

You can get to La Digue in half an hour by boat from Praslin (pronounced Prarlin), an island with just a few fishing boats bobbing in its vast natural bay. But it is the second-largest island in the Seychelles and, at its heart, is the world heritage site of the Vallée de Mai national park, filled with palms, pines and giant ferns, much of it untouched virgin forest with just a narrow track meandering through.

My visit to the Seychelles finished memorably in great culinary style. Along the way there had been wonderful fish dishes of huge red snapper, marlin, creole dishes of spicy pork, curried chicken and octopus.

On the last night in Mahé, Alain St Ange, politician-turned-restaurateur, hosted our table at his Bagatelle restaurant, one of the island's finest.

There was bouillabaisse, lobster, crab, mussels and sensational fillet of beef. Scotland eat your heart out. This was imported from Zimbabwe.

JOHN PARRY

TONY STONE

As well as stunning, palm-fringed beaches, La Digue is home to the Vallée de Mai national park

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of the Seychelles Tourist Office and Air Seychelles.

☐ Flights: Air Seychelles (01293 542101) has three flights a week from the UK — two from London Gatwick and one from Manchester. Excursion fares from Gatwick from £850 return to £1,009 in July, August and September; from Manchester, £962 to £1,121.

☐ Accommodation: small hotels and guest-houses can be booked on the phone and fax numbers below. The dialling code from the UK to the Seychelles is 00 248: Mahé: Le Petit Village (247474, fax 247771); Auberge Louise XVII (344411, fax 344428); Deniella's Bungalows (247212, fax 247784). On Praslin: Maison de Palmes (233411, fax 233880).

☐ Island-hopping: we visited Silhouette (flying by Helicopter Seychelles, which is also available for inter-island transfers and sightseeing excursions), and Bird Island, flying on Air Seychelles' inter-island service. Each island has a small lodge. Silhouette (344154, fax 344178). Bird Island (224925, fax 225074) We also visited La Digue by ferry from Praslin (£2.50) for a day trip, hiring bicycles for about £3 a day.

☐ Tour operators: many UK operators feature small guest-houses: for example, a 12-night island-hopping holiday combining Mahé and Praslin starts from around £1,037 per person with Airwaves (0181-875 1188). Other good operators for small hotels include Silk Cut Travel (01730 265211) and Elite Vacations (0181-423 3131).

☐ Weather: warm and stable all year, with temperatures in the high 70Fs and 80Fs. Heavy rain November to February.

☐ No inoculations are necessary. The Seychelles are malaria-free.

☐ Seychelles Tourist Office (0171-224 1670).

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GAMES

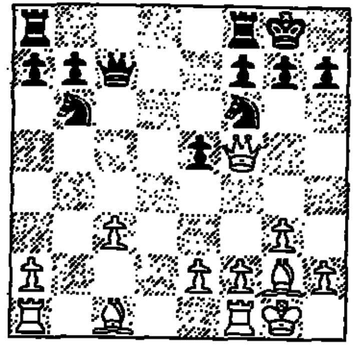
CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THIS weekend marks the 50th anniversary of the death of the world champion and supreme attacker Alexander Alekhine. His games have proved an inspiration for generations of grandmasters. He is the particular hero of Garry Kasparov. "I fell in love with the rich complexity of his ideas at the chessboard," he once said. "Alekhine's attacks came suddenly, like destructive thunderstorms that erupted from a clear sky."

This game from the 1937 world championship, in which Alekhine regained the title from Max Euwe, shows Alekhine's tempestuous style. Alekhine's queenside pawn structure is broken up, but in compensation he has the bishop pair. It is fascinating to see how he launches a series of thunderbolts to deflect Black's attention from his own prime target on the queen's flank. To start comes a typical Alekhine shock, placing a bishop on a square where it can be captured.

White: Alekhine; Black: Euwe
World Championship, 1937
Catalan Opening

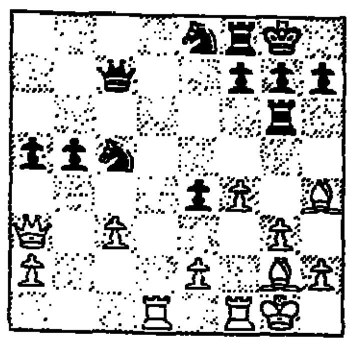


16 Bh6!! Black cannot capture, since 16 . . . gxh6 17 Qxf6 leaves Black's position shattered. Similarly the defence 16 . . . Nfd5 17 Be4 g6 18 Qf3 Rfd8 19 Rad1 leaves Black tied in knots.

16 . . . Nbd7 17 Qg5 Ne8
18 Rab1 Nc5

After 18 . . . Nb6, Alekhine planned a typical sacrifice to retain the initiative, namely 19 a4 f6 20 Qf5 gxh6 21 a5 Qd7 22 Qh5.

19 Qg4 Rd8 20 Bg5 Rd6
21 Qc4 b6 22 f4 Rg6
23 Rbd1 e4 24 Bh4 b5
25 Qb4 a5 26 Qa3



By a constant stream of tactics, *Alekhine has prevented Euwe from co-ordinating his forces for a direct attack on White's broken queenside pawns. The critical move now is 26 . . . Rd6, but then comes the amazing 27 Be7 Rxd1 (not 27 . . . Qxe7 28 Qxe5) 28 Bxe5 Rxf1+ 29 Kxf1 b4 30 cxb4 Nd6 31 Qxa5 Qxa5 32 bxa5, when White should win.*

26 . . . f5 27 Bd8 Qa7
28 Kh1 Ra6 29 Rd5 Ne6
30 Rfd1 Nxd8 31 Rxd8 Qf7
32 R1d5 Re6 33 Rxb5 Qc4
34 Rxf5

The decisive blow, and again typical Alekhine. Black has never been able to string together a cohesive plan given the countless pin-pricks to which Alekhine has subjected him. *If Black now takes the rook with 34 ... Rxf5 then 35 Rxe8+ Kf7 36 Qe7+ Kg6 37 Bxe4 when Black's situation is hopeless.*

34 . . . Ref6 35 Rxf6 gxf6
36 Rd4

This wins easily enough but 36 Qb3 would have ended matters at once.

36 . . . Qxe2 37 Qb3+ Kh8
38 Rxe4 Qd2 39 Qb1 Qxc3
40 Qe1 Qxe1+ 41 Rxe1 Nd6
42 Bc6 Rb8 43 Re6 Rb1+
44 Kg2 Rb2+ 45 Kh3 Nf5
46 Rxf6 Ne7 47 Be4 Kg7
48 Re6 Kf7 49 Rh6 Rxa2
50 Rxh7+ Kf6 51 Rh6+ Kf7
52 Ra6

Black resigns

Anyone interested in Alekhine may like to know that his best games have been reissued in algebraic notation, with revised notes by John Nunn (Batsford, £17.99).

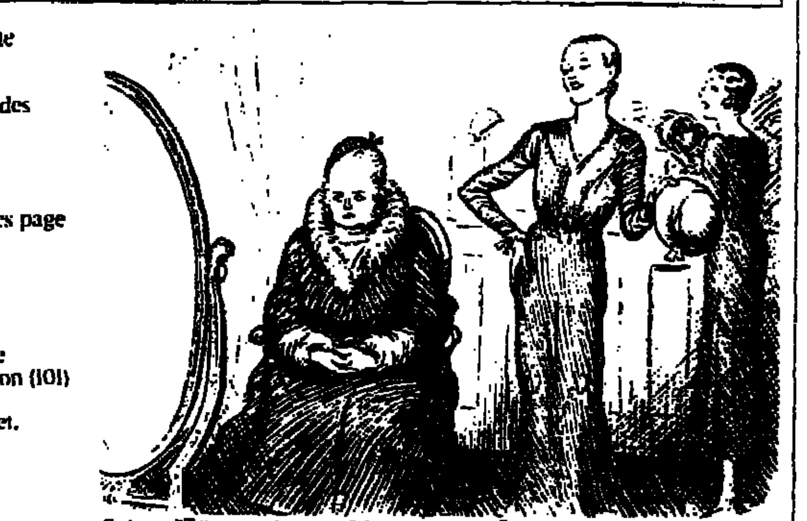
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right). The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption (101) Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, March 27.



Customer. "This hat exposes my forehead too much."
Modiste. "Perhaps modom would like to try something a little less—er—décolleté."

"No dear, I said I enjoy a *Bach* quartet!"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Michael Morrison of Whetstone, London

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HILARIA
a. Feminist politics
b. Scented forsythia
c. A spring festival

NUBK
a. A fruit bush
b. The Lydian letter NB
c. A desert robe with hood

METTWURST
a. A smoked sausage
b. The historic imperfect
c. A feudal leasehold

KHATAK
a. A ceremonial scarf
b. A poisonous millipede
c. A Moroccan goatherd

Answers on page 21

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE stakes at TGR's club in London are the highest in the country. The hands below feature a sporting member of the more establishment Portland Club visiting TGR's.

Dealer South Love all Rubber Bridge

North:
♠10 2
♥7 3
♦K Q 9 8 4
♣8 7 6 2

West:
♠A 8 7 6
♥K J 8 6 4 2
♦7
♣9 3

East:
♠3
♥9 5
♦A 10 6 5 2
♣K J 10 5 4

South:
♠K Q J 9 5 4
♥A Q 10
♦J 3
♣A Q

S	W	N	E
2♠	3♥	Pass	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	4NT	All Pass

Contract: 4NT by South
Lead: nine of clubs

After winning the opening lead with the queen of clubs South (the visitor) played on diamonds. East took the second round and played a heart. At this point it was clear that East had KJ10 of clubs and the ace of diamonds, so West was marked with the ace of spades and king and jack of hearts. All South had to do was play the ten of hearts on East's heart return and he would have been in control.

However, the visitor took his eye off the ball — thinking he had a safe ten tricks by clearing the spades, he won with the ace of hearts. He then led a spade to the ten and cashed the queen of diamonds. Too late he realised he had no safe discard. To keep his heart guard he had to throw a spade, and when he continued spades West (Zia Mahmood) took the ace and led one back. Thus South had to lose the last two heart tricks. "Suicide squeeze" remarked Zia unkindly.

On the second hand, Zia was North and the visitor East.

North:
♠A
♥4
♦Q 7 3
♣A K Q J 10 9 4 3

West:
♠Q J 7 6 5
♥10 6 3
♦A K J
♣6 5

East:
♠4 3 2
♥A K 5
♦9 8 4 2
♣8 7 2

South:
♠K 10 9 8
♥Q J 9 8 7 2
♦10 6 5
♣-

Contract: 3NT by South
Lead: king of diamonds

North opened One Club and continued with Two Diamonds over South's One Heart. The resulting 3NT contract appears to have nine top tricks and only four losers.

West started with the king of diamonds and switched to the six of hearts. East tried winning with the ace and returning a low heart, hoping to find his partner with Jxx. That let declarer home.

The correct defence would have been a good counter to Zia's comment about the first hand. East should cash a second high heart. What is dummy to discard? If he keeps Qx of diamonds, a winner must be thrown, and now East exits with the eight of clubs, forcing dummy to give West the last two tricks in diamonds.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

WE KICK off with the slickest international football game in town, **Actua Soccer**, which is now out for the PlayStation. Thanks to the witty addition of good running commentary from Barry Davies, this game leaps from the screen with mesmerising depth and playability.

You can opt to play the national team of any of 44 countries and switch tactics and styles to your liking. **Actua Soccer** is a benchmark title and it's the audio action that makes for such engrossing entertainment. Only one or two can play but bystanders will find themselves quickly drawn in.

The crowd-pulling action of motor racing is less scintillating in **F1 Challenge**, a one-player, Formula One racing game for the Sega Saturn. The graphics are pleasant enough but the action and engine sounds are wimpy. The only new twist is the chance to call into the pits for tyre-swaps and servicing during marathon races; and the most tired trick is an inane music score which elevates elevator Muzak to classical status.

Equally uninspiring, and also for the Saturn, is **Off-World Interceptor Extreme.** Throwing you behind the wheel in rough terrain, the armed vehicle bangs about every which way but loose. The design of the game also feels rough and ready.

Returning to the international circuit, learning a language has never been easier with some of the latest software. Trying to master another tongue by using language labs was never very satisfactory but, two decades later, similar ideas work much better on home computers.

Many titles include voice-recognition software, allowing you to hear and then accurately repeat words and sentences. From Vektor Multimedia, the **At Home** series on CD-Rom provides a fundamental, structured learning approach in French, German and Spanish "in-line with the UK National Curriculum". Icon-led, the title has a formal feel as it teaches essentials such as the alphabet, numbers currency and times as well as phrases and a little interactive dialogue.

The Multimedia Language System from Infogrames also focuses on French, German or Spanish and comes with a microphone. By contrast, these boast a "no-lessons-involved", more colourful approach, teaching instead through a succession of enjoyable word and picture games. Native speakers guide users through the activities and reward success with verbal treats such as *fantástico*! or *estupendo*! in the case of the Spanish course. In order to progress through the games you have no option but to get your tongue around the language, and many games demand correct pronunciation to be won.

Bring Spain to your doorstep with a *fantastico* course

Not since Petula Clark learnt French by hypnosis, allegedly, has it seemed so easy to start conversing in a second language without even knowing a word. From Accent Software International, the sophisticated **Accent Duo** range allows you to type in one language and see it automatically translated into a second. Of course there are a few quirky slip-ups, for example when translating Spanish to English the line "Hello, young lovers" becomes "Hello, juvenile lovers".

Accent Duo titles are available for English to French, German, Italian and Spanish on CD-Rom as well as floppy disk for easy laptop loading. Each includes a multilingual word-processor supporting several other languages as well as spell-checking, thesaurus and hyphenation. Text for translation can also be imported from external documents. The software is such a cinch to use that even slow learners will find themselves getting to grips with a new language in seconds.

Éste es el último exige Cyberspace Veintidós. That is, this is the last call for Cyberspace Twenty-Two. The competition closes at midnight on Tuesday March 26, and to enter you must write a treatment for a suitable new movie to be made by Ken Russell. Your ideas will probably be far-fetched. Three lucky readers will each win Logitech scanners. First prize is a top-of-the-range PageScan Color, a self-feeding A4 scanner. Second and third prizes are ScanMan Color and ScanMan 256 hand-held scanners. Each comes with editing software. Entries must be between 150 and 250 words, include your name, age, address and home telephone number and be sent to: Cyberspace Twenty-Two, Computer Games, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax entries to us on 0171-729 6791. The judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

"Listen, someone's screaming in agony. Fortunately I speak it fluently." Spike Milligan, *The Goon Show* (1959).

WINNING MOVE

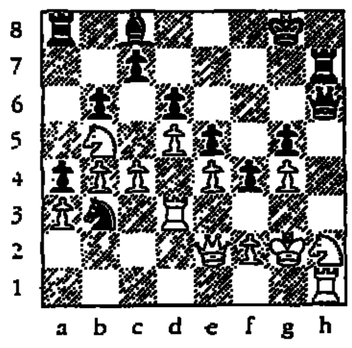
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Jelen - Tkachiev, Cannes 1996. Although Black has a strong initiative on the kingside, White appears, for the moment at least, to have kept him at bay. Can you spot the clever Black continuation which proved that this is not the case? Black to play.

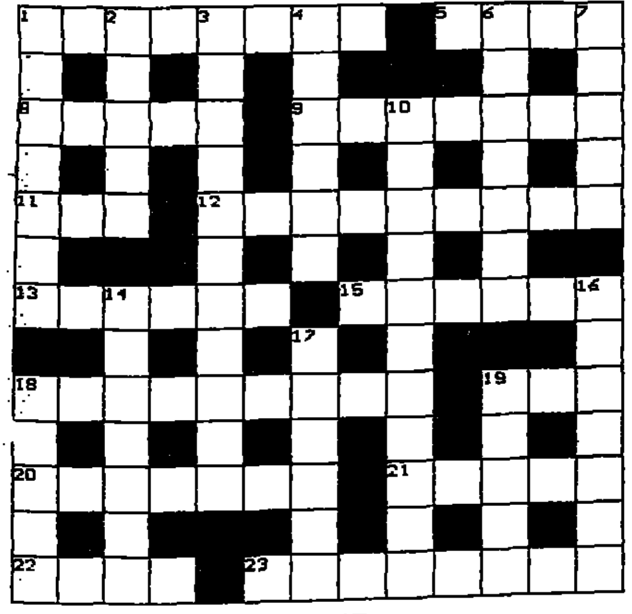
Send your answers on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Rh6.

Last week's winners: M Kaye, Charminster, Dorchester; J Stevens, Southville, Bristol; H McDonald, Birkenhead.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 737

ACROSS
1 Listen to what's been recorded (4,4)
5 Assist (4)
8 Gurkha knife (5)
9 Seat behind motorcyclist (7)
11 Mean: moo (3)
12 Hide from pursuers (2,2,5)
13 Chief of group (3,3)
15 One of no independence of thought (3-3)
18 Confuse and deceive (9)
19 Rule: Bonar —, PM 1922 (3)
20 Game; its sneaky manoeuvre (7)
21 A shin bone (5)
22 For fear that (4)
23 Disaffect (8)

DOWN
1 Northern crumpet (7)
2 Wonky (5)
3 Call to account (5,2,4)
4 Truman —, US novelist (6)
6 Brief witticism (7)
7 Steal; Tom — *(Chuzzlewit)* (5)
10 Truth-tester (3,8)
14 Pretentiously self-important (7)
16 70s rock; 60s French cinema (3,4)
17 Portuguese Atlantic islands (6)
18 A herb; a Fawlty (5)
19 Father of Leah and Rachel (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 736
ACROSS: 1 Thumbnail 6 Sob 8 Get even 9 Means 10 Tito 11 Wainscot 13 Rhesus 14 Show up 17 Skinhead 18 Drab 20 Pluto 21 Corsair 22 Rye 23 Marquetry
DOWN: 1 Tighter 2 Up-to-the-minute 3 Bevy 4 Anneal 5 La Mancha 6 Search warrant 7 Beset 12 Mushroom 15 Puberty 16 Saucer 17 Super 19 Frau

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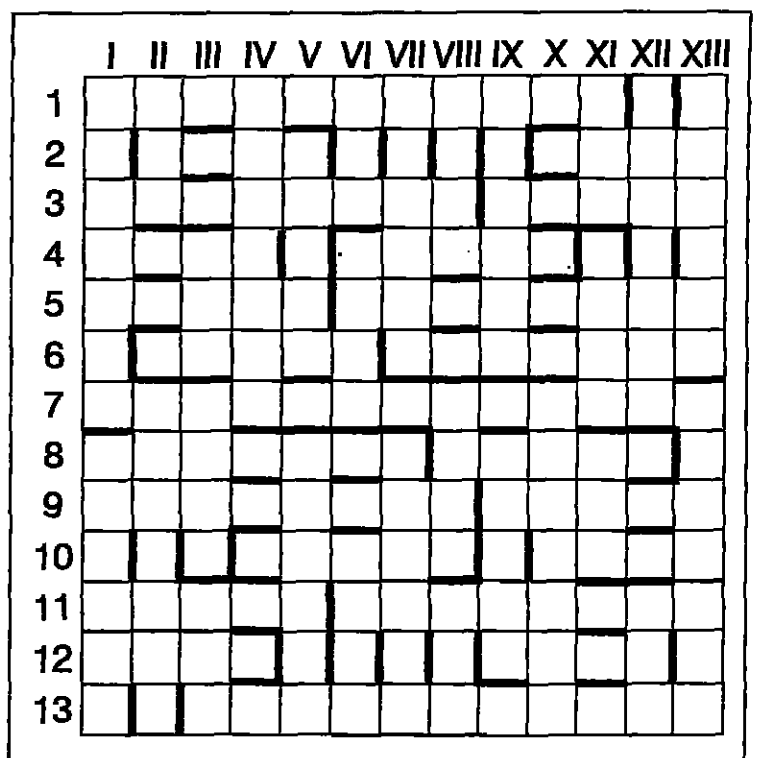
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3350: Up and Down by Doubleshooter

EACH clue is really two clues, placed together so that any join is invisible to words properly entered in *symmetrically opposite places. The word in the central* row is to be deduced. One abbreviation in a cryptic indication is not in *Chambers*.

ROWS
1/13 *This*, copper money in country, bushel finally has secured (11,11)
2/12 It's miraculous — half of nuns sing — it could be growing (4,4)
2/12 Reflecting somewhat, echo a ruby or other crystals, as found in margins of lake (4,4)
3/11 What might be in the air as ugly "mare" follows side to water? (8,8)
3/11 Many a head featured here with representation of old mace (5,5)
4/10 See one monarch returing thus to become a god (4,4)
4/10 See something which can run selected to do here (5,5)
5/9 Tree product of singular note that French backed, a bit delightful essentially (5,5)
5/9 Perhaps be responsible for teenager, non-conformist type (8,8)
6/8 One pull by the tail and one gets a kind of "pig" according to some (5,5)
6/8 Parent's little time to rue terrible person responsible for health of public? (7,7)
7 *To be deduced*

COLUMNS
I/XIII Secure source of light energy on part of chair in a rod (7,7)
II/XII Singular person? (3,3)
III/XI Odalisk finally found here, for example, where there's some good ale? (3,3)
IV/X Here you'll find junior character from Greece with Society on transport (7,7)
V/IX To do without oxygen animals drink again and again showing such (5,5)
VI/VIII Man sending back part of honorarium (3,3)
VI/VIII I'm being taken off rim, perhaps, and given time there'll be anger (4,4)
VII/VII Non-English purchaser's seen here getting foreign sea pet (6,6)
VIII/VI One god-like person for some people thought up to it (4,4)
IX/V Indications of discomfort which are small and take no time to start (6,6)
XI/III Mister has married one! (3,3)
XI/III It could be be sweet and just a penny to the listener (4,4)
XII/II Forcibly curse, having lost head, but you'll have to go on for longer (7,7)
XIII/I Facial feature for maker of bird noises (6,6)



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3350

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ADDRESS..
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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3350, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, April 4.

The winner will receive: **The Cambridge Encyclopedia**, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with over 36,000 entries; **The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language**, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**, covering all the major writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**.

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Solution to No 3347: Take Your Partners by Llig

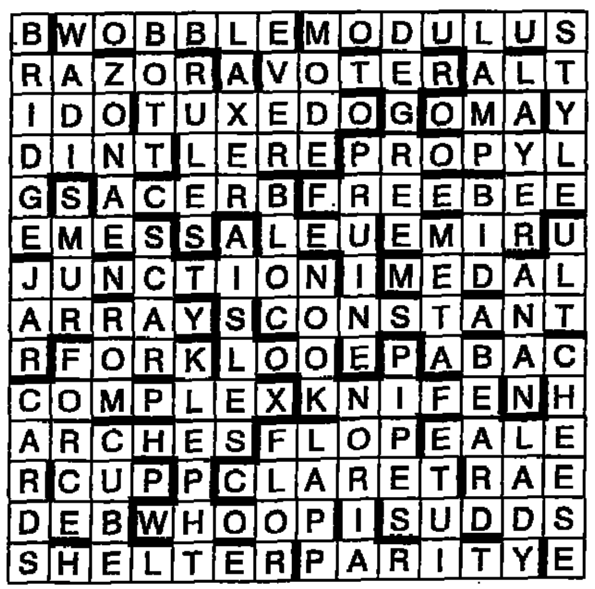
THEMATIC ANSWERS:

ACROSS: 2. Chandler('s wobble) 6. Young (modulus) 10. Occam('s razor) 34. Josephson (junction) 36. George (medal) 40. Planck('s constant) 41. Morton('s fork) 48. Electra (complex) 49. Bowie (knife) 53. Fosbury (flop) 57. Tantalus (cup) 63. Anderson (shelter) 64. Smithsonian (parity).

DOWN: 1. Wheatstone (bridge) 6. Dorian (mode) 7. Lambeth (degree) 8. xenon (lamp) 9. New (style) 12. Queensberry (rules) 15. Heaviside (layer) 34. Kilner (jar) 44. Uillean (pipes) 46. Vandyke (beard) 47. Ilchester (cheese) 48. Zener (cards) 52. Rubik (cube)

The winner: Dr M. Harington of East Sheen, London. The runners-up: Donald Faux of Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk and A.J.G. Jones of Sherborne, Dorset.

Statistics relating to 1995 crosswords, including personal record, are available to senders of an SAE (220mm x 110mm; from overseas, stamp exempt) to J.E. Green, 31 Bishopric Court, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1TJ.



B	W	O	B	B	L	E	M	O	D	U	L	U	S
R	A	Z	O	R	A	V	O	T	E	R	A	L	T
I	D	O	T	U	X	E	D	O	G	O	M	A	Y
D	I	N	T	L	E	R	E	P	R	O	P	Y	L
G	S	A	C	E	R	B	F	R	E	E	B	E	E
E	M	E	S	S	A	L	E	U	E	M	I	R	U
J	U	N	C	T	I	O	N	I	M	E	D	A	L
A	R	R	A	Y	S	C	O	N	S	T	A	N	T
R	F	O	R	K	L	O	O	E	P	A	B	A	C
C	O	M	P	L	E	X	K	N	I	F	E	N	H
A	R	C	H	E	S	F	L	O	P	E	A	L	E
R	C	U	P	P	C	L	A	R	E	T	R	A	E
D	E	B	W	H	O	O	P	I	S	U	D	D	S
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ADVENTUROUS, artistic, attractive N/S Antipodean woman graduate, SE based hopes to attract her thinking spiritually aware soulmate 58-62 for mutual caring, love & fun. Photo appreciated & returned. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 4381

ADVERTISING oneself is boring but we are not: you a 48+ male, widely read, highly intelligent, VGSOH, humble but crazy enough to talk to animals, my passions include E Anglia, writing, books, etc. Box No 4376

ALIVE caring sensitive Twickenham Female seeks romantic male counterpart 50/60 for close encounters. Box No 4422

ARE you tall, handsome, slim, and under 40? Honestly?! Charming, witty and well educated? An animal lover? Successful - and kind with it? A Romantic scouring Derbyshire/Yorkshire for a lovely, leggy blonde to brighten up your life? A recent photo is essential and plse "Tell me all"!!! Box 4624

ARE you a gentleman aged 55/65 non smoker who likes travel, classical music and the arts? I'm an attractive affectionate lady 5'3" with auburn hair based in East Sussex. There is a possibility that we might become absolutely fabulous friends. Please reply with photo to Box 4494

ARE you man enough to meet a tall slim intelligent professional late 30's lady? Do you possess a spirit of adventure? If you are 6'0" plus, Midlands based and seek stimulating company, communicate soon. Photograph essential and guarantees a reply Box No 4654

A sociable slim, professional lady, 57, GSOH, interests walking, arts, travel, WLTM like-minded gentleman Warwickshire. Please Reply to Box No 4418

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LADIES

ARISTOCRATIC Anglo-German lady, 5'6, late 30s who is healthy and attractive, tenacious yet generous, definite yet gentle, capable yet needing support, sexy, loving, imaginative and quick witted, proud yet comfortable in any company. WLTM preferably British-German/ American independent gentleman in his 40s who desires an able partner, best friend and generous lover and offers the same. London/Sussex based. Photo plse. Box 4528

ATTRACTIVE widow (mid 40's, 2 loving children) professional graduate, Anglican, eternal optimist, seeks congenial male company for conversation, music, country walks, Evensong, good food, theology and wine. S.W. Box No 4484

ATTRACTIVE man wanted! Successful, sporty, amusing, romantic? Stylish Sussex lady, 53, curvaceous, size 12, loves sports, wining, dining, children. Heaps of TLC for Mr. Right. Photo essential. Box No 4629

ATTRACTIVE, adventurous lady 29, Spain based, many interests, WLTM attractive, intelligent, GSOH, N/S male 28-36 for friendship. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 4477

BEAUTY with brains, Oxford-based, almost grownup lady, seeking tallish blond? gentleman medic/psychologist or other well-educated, open-minded professional with an interest in improving peoples' lives. Like me you are: highly eligible with first class credentials, honest, great sense of humour, enjoy life to the full, attractive & health conscious, extrovert with many friends, but missing that special romance, not yet married because you've probably been too busy establishing a successful career & simply haven't found the right person, being choosy isn't easy, you thought you'd respond to an ad) But be brave - discretion guaranteed. Photo please to Box 4481

BRIGHT, professional, tall, slim, highly attractive, 30, London based lady WLTM intelligent, confident, handsome man. Photo & GSOH essential. Please Reply to Box No 4383

BUBBLY attractive lady, excellent vintage, especially compliments a smooth rich dish! Would appeal to connoisseur 40+, Solihull vineyard. Please Reply to Box No 4649

CHARMING Thespian, intelligent, attractive, solvent, stylish lady SW Herts/London seeks similar tallish man (59+) for whirlwind permanent romance. Photo please. Box No 4464

CHARMING London Lady, slim, Jewish, educated, sophisticated seeks super, successful gent. 40's for TLC. Box No 4822

CLASSY but sexy, attractive, slim lady (34) into culture, fun & the country seeks romantic, loyal & sincere country gentleman for like-minded pursuits. Friendship, romance & permanent relationship N/S. Surrey/Sussex. Reply Box No 4541

CONTINENTAL lady, early 60's, active, professional, would like to correspond with ex-teacher /writer/amateur actor. View: Friendship/exchange of hospitality. Reply to Box No 4621

DAMSEL 33 smart, attractive, lawyer Cardiff seeks similar warm, caring, unpretentious romantic knight. Oxbridge? Box No 4472

DIZZY blonde, attractive, elegant, independent, travelled, 37. WLTM fun professional, lawyer, pilot etc. to share happy times, romantic dinners, walks, log fires, good food & wine. South West London. Box 4622

DORSET, Bournemouth. New Forest, unique personal service, special offer March.Free details call sat/sun day/eve 01202 706999. Elite Introductions.

DOWN TO EARTH tall, attractive, bright lady (49). GSOH, enjoying life WLTM tallish romantic N/S gentleman. Photo appreciated. London/SE. Please Reply to Box No 4580

EARLY to mid 50s and male? Ridiculous sense of humour? Life's experiences overcome and still smiling? Me too! North Midlands. Photo. Box No 4685

FEMALE lawyer, with humour, Londonbased. WLTM an intelligent, sensitive & cultivated man 35-50ish with view to future longterm relationship preferably marriage. Replies promised to all letters. Box No 4525

FIT, attractive 40 yr old brunette lady, enjoys travelling, good food, music, etc. etc. WLTM male 4-54 to enjoy life with. London. Photo plse to Box 4367

GENEROUS of spirit, strong, kind, professional man (50ish) who may enjoys tennis, bridge, the Arts, good food & conversation, genuinely wishing to share life is wanted by a poised, attractive, slim, blonde, well educated solvent lady (E. Berks. based) Photo to Box4575

GENTLE Woman, best English /Swiss background, Christian, kind, good-looking seeks kindered soul gentleman 70-75 friendship, marriage willing to live S France. Mrs Corry 4016 Basel 16.

GOOD THINGS come in small packages - positive & petite feminine, 46, divorced W. London lady looking for affection, good company & fun. Box No 4554

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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GORGEOUS blue eyed blonde (ex-model) 44 slender feminine intelligent stylish cultured and vivacious. Looking for a tall slim interesting man forever. Box No 4399

GRADUATE'S widow, 57, Bucks, with GSOH, WLTM cultured, single, N/S man 50-65 interest in the Arts, travel, antiques & gardening a bonus. Photo appreciated. Box 4473

GREGARIOUS, fun, slim, fit attractive London female, late 30's enjoying travel, sport & friends seeks Non snoring, N/S interesting successful attractive, 'cultured' male with GSOH (38-46). Photo plse to Box 4508

HAMPSHIRE/DORSET Lady, no ties, seeks Gent 50-60's, GSOH, share outings, holidays and life generally. Letter with interests and photo appreciated. Box No.4171

HOMELOVING prof widow, 61, WLTM, sincere tall gentleman over 5'11", aged 52-66, London SE & Kent borders. Photo plse. Box No. 4378

INTELLIGENT, attractive, public school educated, generous, 58, woman in Herts wants someone caring, emotionally aware with whom to find physical and emotional compatibility and love. Photo appreciated. Box 4557

IRISH LADIES lovely, lively, literary, with sincere, spirited, solvent gentlemen. Call Anglo-Irish Introductions i.e. Equations 01372 379126.

ITALIANA Bella, 32, successful, fun, seeks tall, cultured, affectionate, N/S, European professional man, 28-38 for happy ending. London. Photo please. Reply to Box No 4421

JAPANESE lady late 40's, loves classic music, literature, seeks gentleman to share interest. London. Box No 4492

KNIGHT in rusty armour with all the usual vices required for surprisingly normal lady (48) based in E Anglia. A sense of humour & some money would make you devastating! Please Reply to Box No 4589

LICHFIELD, Walsall, Dudley, Stourbridge, one phone call=over 300 ladies. Free details call Sat/Sun day/eve 01543 450911. Elite Introductions.

LOOKING for Mr. Right. Cuddly, attractive, Surreybased ex-pat, divorcee, varied interests WLTM solvent, caring, loyal gentleman, 5'10", (age 50-65), GSOH, to share a new life together. Letter & photo appreciate. Reply to Box No 4535

LOVABLE lady, intelligent, professional and attractive, seeks loyal gentleman, 35 - 45, for love and laughs. S. Wales/SW. Please Reply to Box No 4487

MAGIC, music & mirth sought. Attractive, dark-eyed female medic, 32, WLTM prof male of Celtic origins. London. 4373

MEN it's simple - one Free call equals 1241 eligible, attractive women, plus an active social life at Close Encounters Cardiff, Bristol, Bath, Cheltenham, Swindon, Salisbury, Oxford, Reading, Kent & Sussex 0800 141 141. Open every day.

MEN, why call long distance? Ring Mike or Sue at Close Encounters, Richmond, Twickenham, Kingston, Wimbledon, Esher, Walton 01932 783168.

MIDLANDS, North/South /West, one phone call=over 300 ladies. Free details call Sat/Sun day/eve 0121 386 2234. Elite Introductions.

MY best friend is lonely gorgeous blonde, 44, kind, funny and very successful. Recent divorce. Essex/ Suffolk border. She requires happy, charming prof. male, 48-55, of equal substantial income for wonderful life. Please Reply to Box No 4686

N.SURREY lady seeks friend. I'm 5'5", slim, independent but lovely & divorced. I enjoy all the usual things, music, theatre, gardens, walking, I play golf, like to cook, travel & enjoy life in my spare time. If you are 50-60, live south of London or north of Brighton, why not drop me a line & tell me what you like. Photo plse to Box 4533

NICE and normal warm, attractive lady, youthful 50 WLTM professional caring male. GSOH, essential interests art, music, travel, good food and walking. Reply to Box No 4490

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday and Sunday. Call free 0800 141 141.

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OLD FASHIONED values. Slim, dark haired, dark eyed lady, late 30's, cosmopolitan Christian background WLTM prof man 40+ to share varied interests for committed relationship. London/SE Box No 4540

OPTIMISTIC - positive woman mid 40's - enjoys walking, travel, theatre, photography W.L.T.M. interesting active man for friendship. Devon/ S.W. Plse Rply to Box No 4666

OZ Aug/Sept 4 wheel drive outback trek. Moving on slim, 40's N/S professional widow, seeks similar male intrepid travelmate for quality adventure. Reply to Box No 4628

PERSONABLE brunette graduate, 64, slim, N/S, articulate & a warm personality. Fond of the arts, travel, golf, good food & wine. Seeks fit, cultured, prof man of good background & similar interests to share fun, affection & commitment. London/SE. Reply Box 4584

POSITIVE attractive, slim, successful, well travelled lady (early 30's) WLTM N/S, successful genuine man with GSOH (30+), Northwest. Photo please to Box No 4507

PROF. woman WLTM man 55/65 preferably Jewish, n.o., n.s., good physical condition. Interests classical music, opera, theatre, skiing, good food and wine. Prefer London area. Please Reply to Box No 4631

PROFESSIONAL, slim, caring, black lady, 40's, considered attractive, 5'5", N/S, successful and financially secure, with GSOH and great love of good life. Interested in travel, theatre, dining in/out, and really good company, seeks similar, unattached, 45-55 gentleman. London area, for meaningful relationship. Race unimportant. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 4407

READY to love again? Warm, romantic lady, 47, seeks a loyal, enthusiastic soulmate, a caring, stylish, amusing, professional 40's-50's man to share fun, laughter, country & cultural pursuits. Cambs/Herts. Letter & photo ensures reply. Box 4617

ROMANTIC male aged 48-68 approx. Interests Blues, Classical, Romantic music, theatre & tennis sought by v. attractive professional lady. London W./Surrey. Box No 4632

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS is fun - and quite proper. Try it! I am an independent, slim, hard-working woman of charm, elegance, sophistication and warmth whose life is full of marvellous moments. Yet through my enjoyment runs an echo of loneliness. If you're between 50 & 65 and empathize with this, and are also a personable, relaxed unstuffy professional please write Box 4647

SCANDINAVIAN young 40 attractive, slim, tall, professional female into skiing, tennis, theatre, enjoying life, etc. WLTM a tall, N/S male 46-52 with GSOH. South London. Photo please to Box No 4588

SENSUOUS, sensitive and seriously wealthy man 40-55 wanted for classy, cultured, slim prof blonde, 40's, London. Photo please to Box No 4582

SHREWSBURY, Chester, Staffordshire, Wolverhampton, Stoke, one phone call=over 500 ladies ready to meet you !! free details Elite Introductions, 01952 891941, open sat/sun day/evening.

SINGLE, easy going average build late thirties. WLTM woman interested in cinema, days out, sports. Wirral area. Photo apprec & replies to addresses sent. Box No 4497

SLIM feminine, prof, 46 of wit/imagination seeks inspiration of successful, solvent, N/S, prof man 50-60 to enhance already good life. Lndn/ Herts/ Cambs/Essex. Photo. No. 4572

SOMEONE Special. Stylish, slim, attractive female, 39 WLTM stylish, slim male 38-48 N/S. London. Photo plse. Box 4581

SPRING warmth & reawakening wanted for creative, tender, stimulating, fun, blonde, tall, slim, attractive 50s London woman by similar 'life' giving man. Please reply to Box 4561.

TEMPESTUOUS Blonde seeks lid/lover - jazz, Shakespeare, Champagne, tenderness, compassion, morals and life experiences. Lets meet for sensible chat. N/s, tall, 42-54. London/Home Counties. Telephone & photo to Box 4673

VERY attractive, very clever sophisticated lady. Adventurous, witty, many interests. Early 40's WLTM paunchless, positive, well-educated male. Please Reply to Box No 4664

VIVACIOUS professional lady mid 40's, eclectic tastes seeks similar professional male, N/S, late 30's/40's. Box No 4449

WALKER required - a well sprung, educated, civilised, kind & humorous male companion, 28-48 for fun-loving, pretty, elegant female lawyer. London based with view to a possible relationship. Please send letter & photo. Replies promised. Please Reply to Box No 4524

WANTED: The impossible. A tactile, caring, sporty, cultured man with VGSOH, 48-60. I'm tall, attractive, affectionate & fun. I enjoy tennis, travel, theatre & much more. S.Oxon based. Photo please. Box4675

WARM, attractive, vibrant enterprising prof Jewish woman 50's seeks humorous caring intelligent man (London) for good times, bad times & all the rest. Reply with photo to Box 3953

WOMAN of means, stylish, petite, dazzling (and her smile), sparkling intellect seeks committed music lover 40-60 for concerts & companionship London. Must be healthy, wealthy & wise. Please Reply with photo to Box No 4590

YOUNG-LOOKING 42, attractive, slim, artistic & fun, looking for adventurous attractive man. Photo please. E. Anglia. Please Reply to Box No 4692

GENTLEMEN

AFFECTIONATE and sincere professional (young, very fit 47), n/s, separated, solvent. Interests: golf, tennis, Classic cars, romantic dinners, cosy nights in. Seeks attractive, slim lady (30-40) with similar interests for romance and long term relationship. West Berks/ Nth Hants. Letter & photo please to Box No 4682

AMIABLE, kind, honest, presentable, divorced, no ties, solvent, young 55 yrs. prof. seeks attractive younger woman to share contented W. Isles life. Interests include reading, writing, poetry, walking, DIY, most music, romantic dinners, shared cosy evenings by a blazing fire... Chatty letter & photo appreciated. Box No 4439

ANGLO German professional, 39, pub. school, tired of single life seeks n/s lady to share what life has to offer. I am tall, slim, fair and successful. If you are based in Edinburgh area, why not write? Box No 4556

A REGULAR (solvent) guy offers TLC, respect, special values and interesting pursuits to petite n/s lady 40-50 any culture. London SE. Photo please. Go for it, I am just a stamp away. Box 4683

ARE you into sailing, skiing & an outdoor life. Surrey/Hants based solvent (own business) slim male (48). WLTM attractive, slim fun-loving & sensual N/S lady 30's-45 to share weekends afloat & life's pleasures. Photo please to Box No 4542

ART & Spanish Teacher WLTM educated, attractive slim, London lady under 5'5" between 40 & 50 for loving, long term commitment. Please Reply to Box No 4546

BOY next door looks, 26, professional, art & music fan, seeks similar lady for friendship. London. Reply to Box No 4358

GENTLEMEN

ATTRACTIVE, humorous and intelligent lady (age 40 plus) interested in travel (USA) theatre and dining sought by unattached N/S busy London man to share fun, romance and future. Please send photograph to Box No 4636

ATTRACTIVE, athletic Oxford educated prof. 35 yr old male seeks a kind, intelligent lady for companionship. I enjoy travel, tennis, walking theatre, etc. South East/London. Box 4405

BARRISTER (under 30) required to defend tall,good-looking professional (32) against rigour of modern life. Brief includes fast car and real estate. Other assets to be discussed at conference. Photo please. Box No 4426

BIG house in the West Country, nice car, nobody to share these and other good things in life. I am 48, have my own business, highly qualified Post Graduate of the University of Life. WLTM vivacious, fun loving sociable, sincere lady 28-40 for dining, weekends in the country and maybe long term relationship. Photo & letter to Box No 4669

BRIGHT, aware, articulate, N/S grad, loves arts, music, countryside, new experiences & challenges. Seeks lively 40's/50's female counterpart. London/ SE. Photo plse. Box 4676

BUSINESSMAN/writer, age 40, lives in N London, interests include Tai Chi meditation, wishing to meet a soulmate, aged 28-35 in London. Photo & tel no. appreciated.Box No 4683

CARING, romantic, fun-loving male 44 with love of children, animals, sailing and travel, WLTM attractive, charismatic and sincere woman. London and South. GSOH essential. Photo please. Box No 4659

CHARMING well travelled, unassuming, tall, presentable professional, 42, with GSOH, usual interests, WLTM intelligent, cosmopolitan, articulate, gregarious, warm female to see what happens. London/SE. Photo please to Box No 4602

COUNSEL required: female 26-33 to take instruction to defend 28 year old company director who promises to make you laugh. Accused of neglecting his love life for his career, willing to plea bargain, conference to be held in Central London or waterside chambers. Constructive replies to Box No 4677

COVENT GARDEN, Wigmore Hall, Royal Academy, All Pall, Cafe Jazz, biking, hiking, skiing, travelling, laughing. If you like the sound of this, and are in your late 20's to mid 30's I would love to hear from you. I am French, mid 30's, tall, single, n/s, well travelled, physically and mentally fit. London based. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 4684

DORSET, Bournemouth. New Forest, unique personal service, special offer March.Free details call sat/sun day/eve 01202 706999 Elite Introductions.

EASYGOING prof male, 39, own company, slim, fit, no ties, WLTM slim N/S woman who doesn't take life too seriously. London/Home Counties. Photo appreciated. Box No 4431

EASYGOING gentle man of Surrey WLTM intelligent slim elegant N/S lady of c50 summers to enjoy outings to theatre, opera, etc. photo essential. Please reply Box 4662

ENERGETIC professional male, late 40's, tremendous personality & presence, GSOH, sincere, easy going & reliable. Prepared to try anything! WLTM slim woman, genuine, down-to-earth, sincere. Children no problem. 60 mls radius Manchester. Reply to Box No 4566

FRANCE don't want or can't afford to do it alone. Honest, charming gentleman WLTM similar slim lady up to 53. Please Reply to Box No 4658

HOTBLOODED television professional with spring fever. I am tall, 40's, slim & full of fun, & seek a slim, sensuous soulmate. Try me, show me. London/ Home Counties. Box No 4697

GENUINE Thames cruiser circa mid fifties, good condition for year, reliable with original working parts requires good humoured, kind & glamorous younger mate to enjoy life, tranquility and to pour the champagne. London/ Home Counties. Photo to Box No 4581

GIRL hillwalking companion - special friend sought by tall slender highly presentable guy who is very easy company, 41, academic, musical & 3+ years separated. Ideally you are a very tall funny conversationalist, location unimportant. Photo desirable. Boots & anorak essential. Reply to Box No 4085

HANDSOME architect. Born in the Caribbean, grew up in London, 39 years old, 6'2" tall, slender, fair complexion, sophisticated and very health conscious, very warm and kind natured. Have home in Florida and London. Seeks attractive, elegant, slender, health conscious and must have sophistication female for a serious relationship. Please send photo. Please Reply to Box No 4553.

HAPPY fun loving, slim, successful businessman, late 40's, keen interest: boats, sailing, likes walks, dining out, travel, cooking, time at home. Seeks attractive, slim, intelligent, solvent, N/S lady, GSOH, for fun, adventure & romance, 35-45 to share life. Have you got what it takes? S. London/S. Coast. Photo Please to Box 4594

INTELLIGENT male, fair hair, blue eyes, 31, 6'2", GSOH, caring, fun, sporty, countryloving, seeks attractive lady under 35. Home Counties. Photo appreciated. Box 4578

INVESTMENT banker, Indian origin, very presentable, sporty, 46, would love to share his life in London & maybe set up country home with an attractive, articulate, fit, cosmopolitan lady 28-38. London. Photo please to Box No 4474

INVITATION to relaxing weekends in delightful southeast setting is extended to a petite N/S 50ish Lady Godiva (without horse) by businessman into wholefoods with naturists holiday opportunity abroad. Maybe Cupid could encourage romance if mutually desired. Please Reply to Box No 4577

IRISH LADIES we would love to meet you! We are sincere, solvent, sane gentlemen. Call Anglo-Irish Introductions at Equations. 01372 379126. mon-fri. 9.30-5.30

JETSETTING Millionaire, early forties, 5'8", multiple homes, loves tennis, cinema, socialising seeks slim lady (20's) with style to love, worship and adore. Photo essential. Box No 4638

"KIM" You replied to Box 4001 on 26 Feb, but did not enclose address or telephone number. Please send one or other - reply assured! Thank you.

LADIES it's simple - one free call equals 1127 eligible, attractive men, plus an active social life at Close Encounters Cardiff, Bristol, Bath, Cheltenham, Swindon, Salisbury, Oxford, Reading, Kent & Sussex. Call 0800 141 141. Open every day.

LADIES, why call long distance? Ring Mike or Sue at Close Encounters, Richmond, Twickenham, Kingston, Wimbledon, Esher, Walton 01932 783165.

LANCS/Manchester: Unpretentious, n/s, caring solicitor, 43, seeks, younger prof. lady for dining in/out, strolls, relaxing chat and the other simple things of life. Box No 4635

LEO! 6'2", outgoing, told attractive, would like to meet lady, fuller figured but shapely: photo please, returned. Box No 4423

LICHFIELD, Walsall, Dudley, Stourbridge, one phone call=over 300 men. Free details call Sat/Sun day/eve 01543 450911. Elite Introductions.

MALE 60, good looking, GSOH WLTM attractive 39 to 49 female with no ties for lasting relationship. Surrey/Hants. Please reply with photo to Box No 4818.

MIDLANDS handsome, 6'2", 35, own business seeks very tall, slim, stylish, gorgeous girl 24-35 for mad times & everything. Photo ensures reply. Box 4634

MIDLANDS, North/South /West, one phone call=over 300 men. Free details call Sat/Sun day/eve 0121 386 2234, Elite Introductions.

NOTTS,Leics,Derbs,Lincs, one phone call=over 300 men. Free details call Sat/Sun day/eve 0115 937 7171. Elite Introductions.

NOTTS,Leics,Derbs,Lincs, one phone call=over 300 ladies. Free details call Sat/Sun day/eve 0115 937 7171. Elite Introductions.

OXBRIDGE author- I'm loving and honest, creative and rebellious, mid 60's, with wide ranging interests. I live in a pretty thatched cottage nr Straford on Avon & I'd love to share with a lively minded, elegant, younger woman as best friends & good lovers. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 4679

PANTHEIST, 35, London/ Surrey professional, kind and caring. Seeks country-loving young lady to celebrate Spring with. Plse Rply to Box No 4686

PASSIONATE about flying, slim, attractive, male, 38, GSOH, university lecturer, seeks intelligent, pretty woman 26-35ish for love & marriage. Photo/ phone please. Box No 4631

PROFESSIONAL man 6'1" slim, dark haired, aged 38 with homes in Cheshire & London is looking for attractive lady based in Cheshire or London up to 40 to wine & dine for possible relationship. Photo preferred. Please reply to Box No 4560

PROFESSIONAL 40 Jewish seeks slim female 32-38 to share. The finer things of life. Please Reply to Box No 4673

PROFESSIONAL male (40's), tall, caring, seeks fun loving lady. Plse Rply to Box No 4698

ROMANTIC retired army officer now enjoying second career. Wiltshire based. 6'2" slim, very fit, 59, seeks slim, attractive N/S lively lady 46-65 for permanent relationship. Cycling, walking, dogs, conversation, cuddles, crosswords and companionship. How about you? Photo please to Box No 4447

SHREWSBURY, Chester, Staffordshire, Wolverhampton, Stoke, one phone call=over 300 men ready to meet you !! free details Elite Introductions, 01952 891941, open sat/sun day/evening.

SOMEWHERE, hopefully, there is a delightful, good looking, vivacious, N/S, romantic lady with a lovely smile & manner who is active & enjoys life to the full, has a GSOH, a little sophistication, touched with elegance & style & with the right chemistry will bring back that real sparkle & a new meaning into a lasting relationship. Full of affection & TLC, enjoying each other's company, from pillow talk to drying dishes or walking in the Lake Distict to walking in Sainsbury's, sharing makes it all worthwhile. Whilst encompassing romance, music, theatre, dancing, countryside, travel & the home, with a retired Cheshire widower, very young looking & active in his mid 60s, slimish, 5'8", with a good lifestyle, who would appreciate a genuine reply with a recent photo from that lovely lady please. Box No 4609

SOUTH YORKS man, late thirties seeks lady for spring time walks and fireside conversation. Reply to Box No 4425

SPARKLING, intelligent lady who is elegant, attractive, sensual & tactile sought for mutual happiness & romance by gentleman, professional, 49, graduate, slim, good looking. Together we can enjoy the sparkle of spring, sunshine of summer, country weekends, music, walking, touring France, mutual respect, holding hands, cosy fireside evenings, magical moments & much much more. Surrey/Hants/Berks broders. Reply to Box No 4537

VIRGO! 45, 5'11", N/S, enjoys walks, cinema, sports & games Loves children but not loved at home. WLTM affectionate cuddly lady Age unimportant. Herts/surrounds. Box No 4639

SUCCESSFUL prof guy 34, (London based). Genuine, honest and caring. Has everything he needs except that someone special to share the good times. Seeks intelligent, attractive, independent and sensitive lady, 25-35 for lasting relationship Letter/photo plse to Box 4417

SUCCESSFUL entrepreneur, tall, 36, with pizzazz & presence seeks stunning, slim lady 28-36 who is bright, uncomplicated & fun. No smokers or emotional wrecks! Photo essential plse. London/SE. Reply to Box 4591

THOUGHTFUL Man, shy but warm and sensitive, authentic and intelligent. Slim young looking 47, professional. SW London interested in poetry, theatre, art. Seeks warm, sensitive, slim woman for meaningful relationship. Box No 4530

TOO good to be true? Retired businessman, London based, 61, attractive, 5'10", GSOH, divorced, N/S, solvent & in excellent working order. Seeking lady to have fun, wine/dine, travel & much more. Hopefully she will be youngish, attractive, witty & uncomplicated. Photo ensures a reply. Box 4574

WANTED: Wealthy blonde nymphomaniac aged 26-35 whose father owns a brewery. Please Reply to Box No 4567

WIDOWER 60's 5'10" 17 stone bearded retired professional Many interests, seeks small glamorous shy lady for friendship 45-49. Cotswolds Oxon. Please Reply to Box No 4547

WORKAHOLIC in need of permanent distraction 44 yrs., 6'+ single successful Co Dir., handsome, London based, kind, generous, looking for similar qualities in a slim attractive feminine lady, age, nationality and area immaterial. Please reply with photo to Box 4498

GAY 39, fit, attractive, warm, straightforward, professional, mobile, Berks-based, wide interests especially countryside, not involved in the gay world, seeks similar. Box No 4420

GAY man, London, 6'4", 12 stone, 52, masculine, attractive seeks similar, articulate, open, successful, professional 36-60 who, like him believes a relationship can be liberating, fun and life affirming as well as intimate and fulfilling. Take a calculated risk and Act. Note with tel. no and photo ensures response. Plse reply Box 4409

PROFESSIONAL chap, grad, 37 yrs young, dft, athletic,very fit, considered attractive. Enjoys laughing, being with friends & occasionally overindulging. London/SE. All replies answered. Box No 4060

PROFESSIONAL man, 46, Berks/Oxon, N/S, with dry SOH, seeks out of the ordinary lady 38/45, who enjoys walking, countryside, dining out, for friendship. Box No 4008

PROFESSIONAL gent, 46, varied interests seeks lady for friendship/possible romance. N/England/S/Scotland. Photo appreciated. Discretion assured. Please reply to Box No 4012

READING man, 51, warm hearted, down to earth, romantic, curry & classical music fan, GSOH. WLTM attractive, professional lady. N/S, 24-30, for intelligent conversation and humorous time. Photo please. Please reply to Box No 4187

RETIRED, widower, slim 5'9" solvent, healthy, n/s seeks companion. Holiday House Channelway. Box No 3619

ROMANTIC character & lover of classical music seeks slim, offbeat vibrant 35-45(ish) N/S humorous lady to share life's pleasures. Normal & boring people need not respond. E. Midlands. Box No 3941

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

THE TIMES
cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisments on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will. When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or a trusted friend know where you will be.

We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

SOUTH COAST. Tall Looking Director WLTM an Attractive, Slim Stylish Professional between 30-45 who possess very GSOH and likes to life to the full. Photo and Tel appreciated. Reply Box 41

TALL, (6'5") slim, attractive haired blued eyed "boy", 50, thinks he's 40, divorced ties, stable, loving, successful businessman London/Midlands seeks attractive slim lady under for laughter, wining, dining, travel & hopefully permanent relationship. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 410

TOYBOY 26, educated, attractive, tactile and romantic with GSOH. I am seeking a older lady who prefers the company of a younger man for relationship. Photo appreciated. London/Southeast. Please Reply to Box No 4088

UNPRETENTIOUS Yorks M, adventurous witty genuine seeks slim 30s lady. Please Reply to Box No 4128

WARM-HEARTED chief executive (42) London based, fond of laughter & log fires, seeks soulmate (26-40). Photo appreciated but not essential. Please Reply to Box No 3918

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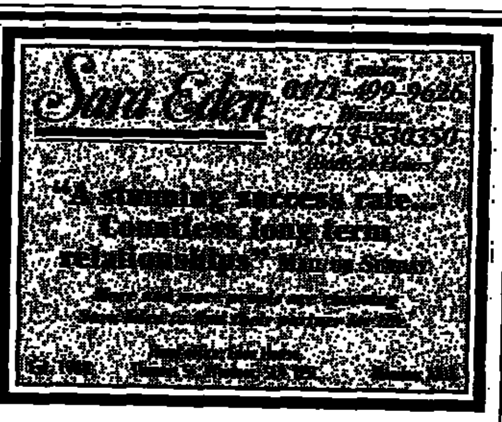

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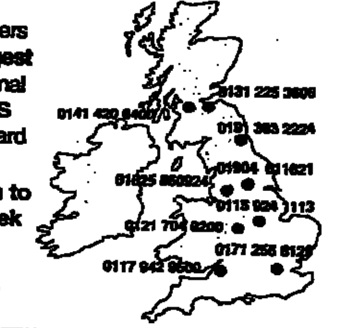

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مكذا من الاجل

Campbell sets out to beat battery record

Page 10

CAR 96

Another chance to enter our driving contest

Page 5

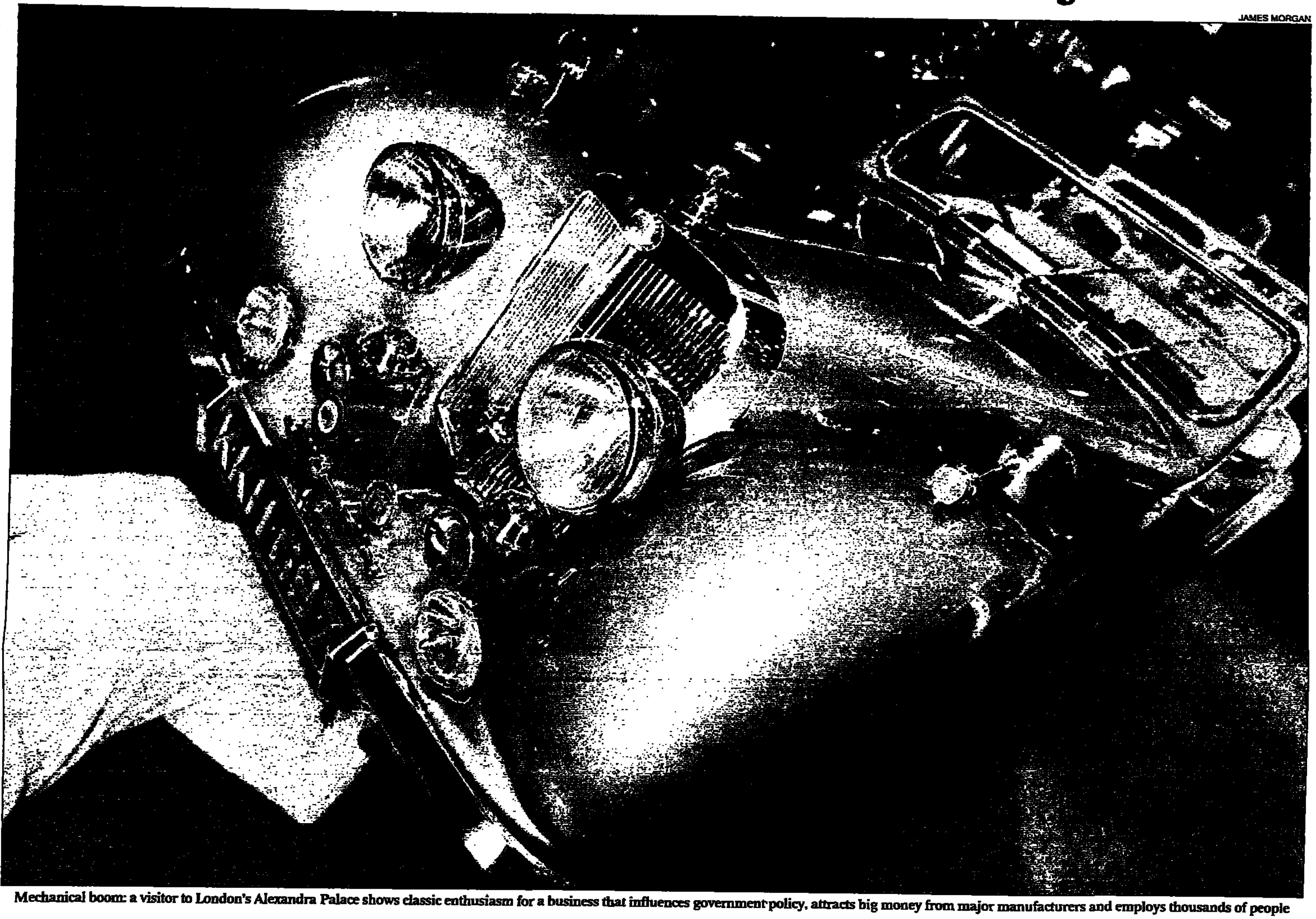
THE TIMES **Lease Plan** Company Car Driver 1996

SATURDAY MARCH 23 1996

Alan Copps celebrates the famous as we start hunting the forgotten

Obsessed with Britain's classic system

It is more than a passion; it is a £1bn a year industry that earns millions in export sales



JAMES MORGAN

Mechanical boom: a visitor to London's Alexandra Palace shows classic enthusiasm for a business that influences government policy, attracts big money from major manufacturers and employs thousands of people

Some simply stand and stare in awe, not daring to step too close to the gleaming machines. Others cannot get close enough: heads disappear beneath bonnets, into boots and one man wriggles along the floor and crawls underneath. A classic car is guaranteed to produce a strong reaction in the British public.

These scenes from last weekend's show at London's Alexandra Palace will be repeated throughout the spring and summer. Every weekend boasts a rally, time trial, sprint, show, *concours d'élegance* or race meeting.

But historic vehicles now represent far more than nostalgia, family fun, the anoraks' delight or enthusiasts' thrills. This national passion has spawned an industry that has weathered recession as well as any and on which business worth £1 billion and exports worth millions depend.

Today, at the Heritage Centre at Gaydon, Warwickshire, home of one of Britain's finest collections of automobiles, the great and the good of the classic car movement will discuss not just chrome, polish and restoration but cash, policy and preservation. The business is important enough to influence government policy and attract big money from major manufacturers. But just what is it worth?

Putting a value on Britain's classic car business is not easy: for a successful industry it must be one of the most fragmented, ranging from the international auction houses and dealers in cars that may be worth £1 million each to suppliers of spares and backstreet boffins who specialise in turning the perfect valve — maybe 5,000 companies in all. Its political lobby secured exemption from road tax for 25-year-old cars.

Robert Brooks, head of Britain's leading classic car auction house, says that the UK auction market is worth about £50 million a year, with dealer and private sales probably worth four times as much. Add in restoration, spares, insurance, the wages of the thousands employed in the business, the funding of museums and the administration and sponsorship of events ranging from club meetings to next year's British-organised Peking to Paris centenary run and the £1 billion looks realistic. Perhaps a quarter of that represents export business. Brooks holds auctions in Monte Carlo, France and Australia as well as Britain, and on April 20 launches a joint venture in Germany with a sale at the Mercedes-Benz museum in Stuttgart.

The big carmakers are rapidly realising the importance of the classic movement. Keynote speaker at Gaydon will be Nick Scheele, chairman and chief executive of Jaguar, fresh from introducing, at the *Geneva Motor Show*, the long-awaited XK8, the result of a massive investment by the company's multi-national parent, Ford. Yet however much is invested in advertising this state-of-the-art sports car, thanks to the fervour of those who bear the flame for classics it will never escape the tag "spiritual successor to the E-type". Scheele and others will talk about classics of the past and the future, how the "big" carmaking industry can help enthusiasts with technology and advice and about the challenges of environmental concerns and changes in permitted fuels.

Jaguar, which also includes Daimler the company that founded the British motor industry 100 years ago, is one of the favourite subjects for preservation. At the Essen classic car show, German enthusiasts were snapping up Mark II Jaguars for up to £60,000 each, a price reflecting the value of restoration carried out largely in Britain.

The conference is sponsored by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs, which links an estimated 300,000 enthusiasts belonging to more than 300 clubs across the country, their interests ranging from cars to scooters and from buses to steamrollers. Its chairman, Peter Glover, estimates that the collective membership is responsible for a million vehicles.

"We represent clubs for enthusiasts, but a lot of them are now run by full-time employees," he says. "We are conscious that thousands of people depend upon the old car scene for employment."

Robert Coucher, editor of *Classic Car* magazine, says: "I would think the classic car business is now close to a billion pound industry. We have well over 3,000 companies on our register of specialists and a lot of their business would be for export."

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, president of the FBHVC, who will open the conference, is quick to point out that the preservation movement began in Britain 70 years ago. "The implications of the business are now enormous. Apart from the sales and spares, there are events worldwide, autojumbles, auctions and it generates huge numbers of books and magazines. I did the first Jaguar book in the 1960s; there are now more than 300 on that make alone.

"I proposed this conference because of the big changes in the movement. When I started the National Motor Museum in 1952, the emphasis was on veteran cars, now the road cars of that era — the Zephyrs and Zodiacs — are regarded as classics in their own right. More and more people want to use these cars on the road and that raises big issues such as road tax, environmental legislation and ethical problems such as when a restoration turns a car into a fake."

Born in Coventry, died in . . . where?

Kevin Eason invites *Car 96* readers to help find a city's lost carmakers

WHEN the candles go out on the motor industry's centenary birthday cake, spare a thought for the hapless executives of the Couder motor company. Their ambition would have been to have their car a proud part of the celebrations — but the company failed to make it into the industry's history book, except as a bizarre footnote.

For Couder is one of the legion of motor companies that started with bright hopes only to fall apart almost as soon as they began.

Over the past century, 132 carmakers set up in Coventry; today there are just two major ones left in the form of Peugeot and Jaguar. And a study by Paul Collins and Michael Stratton shows graphically just how high the attrition rate has been down the years among carmakers for whom survival was a bigger issue than glory.

Coventry City officials have combed the record books, museums and enthusiasts' clubs, but can find only 40 surviving cars of the 132 marques that have come and gone from the city.

Even among the survivors, there is sometimes only a lone car as the metal memorial to the hopes and efforts of the industry's pioneers. Today, *Car 96* starts a quest to find the missing links — cars hidden in barns, at the back of museums or hidden under dusty sheets deep in a dark garage — so that they can take their place in Coventry's tribute to 100 years of car manufacturing in the city.

Our readers might know the location of cars from Arno, Acme and Albatros or Awson, Daisy, Dutson, Cluley, Emms, Gravenor, Hamilton, Priory, Raglan, Rex, Ryley or Viking. The list of Coventry's carmakers is a long and strange roll call of births, deaths and marriages over 100 years.

The questions it poses though is: what happened to all those carmakers and their cars? Some were bought out by the industry's Big Brothers, their names and technology absorbed to such an extent that few people know those fledgling companies even existed; but others clearly never stood a chance, perhaps because they were undercapitalised — or were just incompetent, their cars so deeply flawed that even a novice public knowing little of new-fangled automobiles saw the potential for trouble.

What happened to Couder, for example? Records show that the company set up in Lythalls Lane in Coventry in 1923. And then they weren't there any more; they simply ceased to exist sometime that same year. Nobody seems ever to have seen a Couder car, let alone ridden in one. Even Coventry's Museum of British Road Transport, which has a wide selection of Coventry-made models, is baffled after months of searching for the missing pieces in its jigsaw of the city's motoring history. Yet somebody must have clues as to where the missing models are. Coventry was Britain's

Continued on p3

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AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON

A2 Rochester Way, Bexley. Overnight lane closures between Bourne Road flyover and Crayford railway bridge.

A4 Great West Road, Chiswick. Between 9pm and 6am Monday-Thursday reduced to one lane each way for repairs to the M4 above.

A12 Eastern Avenue, Wanstead. Construction of M11 link road continues, with eastbound reduced to a single lane between Redbridge roundabout and High Street.

A243 Leatherhead bypass kerbing and alteration work at junction with Kingston Road.

A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks continue over the Lea Valley viaduct.

A406 North Circular Road, Finchley. Major roadworks continue with various restrictions between the A1 and A1000 junctions.

● SOUTH-EAST

M4 Berkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow between junctions 6 and 8/9 cause lengthy tailbacks daily.

A509 Buckinghamshire. Major roadworks on the Wellingborough Road in Olney, at junction with Lavendon Road.

A36 Hampshire. Bridge repairs at Wellow, north-west of Southampton.

M1 Hertfordshire. Resurfacing and widening work on northbound exit at junction 6.

A249 Kent. Major works at Stockbury roundabout west of Sittingbourne.

M25 Surrey. Two sections of widening work, with lane closures and contraflows between junctions 6 and 8 and junctions 9 and 10.

A247 Surrey. Roadworks between Clandon Station and Clandon Park. Long delays expected at peak times.

A264 Sussex. Delays expected through East Grinstead town centre due to roadworks on Holtye Road, Portland Land and Moat Road.

● SOUTH-WEST

A4 Avon. Lane restrictions and temporary lights over the Newbridge Bridge, Bath.

M4/M5 Avon. Work on second Severn crossing continues, with restrictions around the Almondsbury & Aust interchanges, and also on the M5 around junction 18.

A30 Cornwall. Roadworks and contraflow near Bolventor, on Bodmin Moor.

A377 Devon. Roadworks continue around Eggesford, between Exeter and Barnstaple.

A381 Devon. Roadworks continue in Teignmouth between Salcombe Dip and Inverteign Drive.

M5 Somerset. Bridge repairs with lane closures both ways between junctions 21 and 22.

● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

A6 Leicestershire. Major roadworks and contraflow at Lockington, between junction 24 of the M1 and Sawley Island.

M69 Leicestershire. Link road from the M69 to M1 northbound closed at junction 21. A short diversion is in operation via the roundabout.

A11 Norfolk. Construction of Wymondham bypass continues, with lane and speed restrictions between Hethersett and Attleborough.

A47 Norfolk. Major roadworks: at Terrington St John and at Swaffham.

M6 Staffordshire. North and southbound entry sliproads on to motorway closed at junction 11 while work is carried out on the A460.

● NORTH

M65 Lancashire. Down to one lane in both directions between junctions 10 and 14 between 9.30am and 4.00pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

M6 Cheshire. Widening work continues between junctions 20 and 21.

A5063 Greater Manchester. Major roadworks and lane closures on Trafford Road, near junction with Pomona Strand.

A630 South Yorkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow on the Rotherway at Canklow, between junction 33 of the M1 and Rotherham.

A167M Tyneside. Northbound lane closures on Newcastle central motorway near Jesmond Road interchange.

M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at end of motorway at junction 47.

● WALES

A550 Clwyd. Narrow lanes and 40mph limit for construction of a new interchange. One lane closed southbound during the week between 9.30am and 3.30pm, and on Saturdays between 9.30am and 1.00pm.

M4 Gwent. Widening work continues in connection with second Severn crossing between junctions 22 and 24.

A48 West Glamorgan. Construction work with lane closures on all approaches to the Wychtree roundabout at Morriston.

A483 West Glamorgan. Major roadworks and contraflow on Fabian Way, Swansea between Elba Crescent and the Earlswood lights.

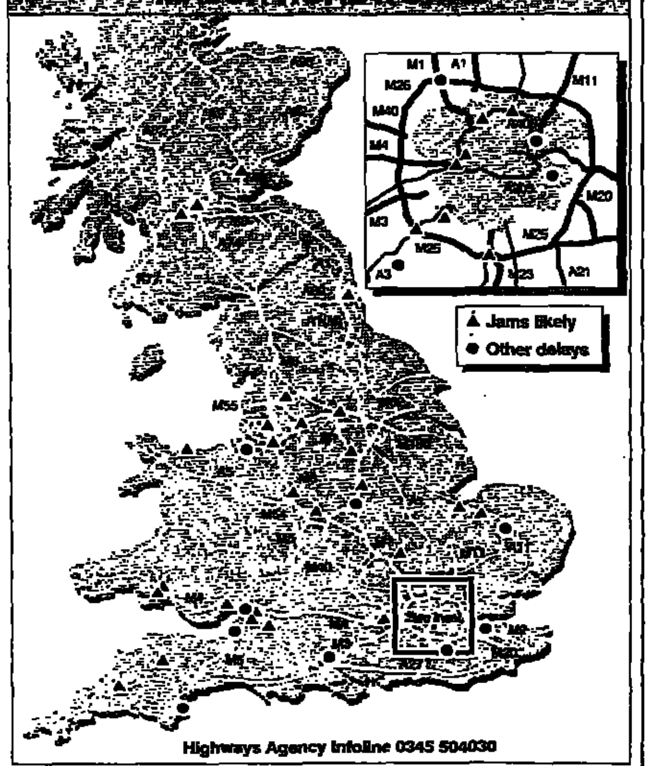
● SCOTLAND

M8 Strathclyde. Lane restrictions westbound at junction 15. Carriageway down to three narrow lanes.

A749 Strathclyde. Dalmarnock Bridge, Glasgow closed southbound for repairs.

M90 Tayside. Major roadworks at junction 10 with lane closures in both directions.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



Highways Agency Infoline 0345 504030

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tyres at risk

HALF the cars on Britain's roads are running on tyres with illegal tread, according to the National Tyres Distributors Association. The association's members inspected more than 300,000 tyres and discovered 48 per cent did not meet the legal minimum of 1.6 millimetres of tread depth. Alarmingly, 17 per cent of those tyres were also severely damaged in a way which could lead to blowouts. Richard Edy, the association's director, says: "The survey confirms fears that motorists still fail to regard tyres as safety critical components."

In the wee small hours

THINKING of a new insurance policy? When exactly? If you live in Essex, apparently you are likely to ring for a quote as late as 2am, according to PremiumSearch. The direct insurer runs 24-hour telephone lines and claims that motorists in Essex are the latest to call, followed by drivers in Hertfordshire and the Midlands, who are also "night owls". Drivers in Northamptonshire are the earliest risers, accounting for 14 per cent of calls from 6am, followed by Yorkshire and Lancashire.

Strictly for the girls

A TRIUMPH no doubt for the market researchers, but what are we to make of surveys that show lesbians are four times more likely to choose a Subaru? According to *Automotive News* in the US, the Japanese company is now targeting lesbians, running adds which endearingly say: "It loves camping, dogs and long-term commitment. Too bad it's only a car." Aaah.

They have a suggestion

CLEVER workers at Rover have won £850,000 in the company suggestions scheme — which saved the business more than £6 million last year. The company has twigged to the fact the workers know best how assembly lines run and now offers prizes worth up to £5,000 and a car for the best money-saving suggestion. Of more than 21,000 suggestions, 4,000 were [illegible] and are now operating.

Directions to Little Snoring are brought to you by Slumberland, makers of quality beds . . . is this the real world?

These are clear signs of madness

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

When my colleague Kevin Eason appeared on the *Today* programme on Monday talking about sponsored signposts, I assumed I was having a bad dream and went back to sleep. Only later did Kevin's story in *The Times* confirm that the world had indeed gone mad.

The great thing about what passes for real life in Whitehall is that you could not make it up. If you were to stumble around a saloon bar telling people that the Minister of State at the Department of Transport, as his contribution to helping drivers to concentrate, proposed to put adverts on signposts you would be chucked out for behaviour likely to lead to a breach of the peace.

John Watts, the said minister, apparently believes that sponsored signposts are the answer to a "shortfall" in the DoT's budget. We shall leave aside the fact that motorists give the Government £25 billion a year and get £5 billion spent in return — the sort of "shortfall" my bank account could do with — and pass quickly on.

Of course there is nothing wrong with the principle of signposts that advertise products. This has been going on for centuries. I expect stagecoach drivers once raised their spirits by discovering that they were fast approaching Bournville or Cheddar without feeling the urgent need for a bar of chocolate or a lump of cheese.

But I would have thought there was a large step to be taken between that and the deliberate carrying of advertising on, say, the signpost to Aldermaston. Incidentally, would this desirable location be sold to British Nuclear Fuels or CND?

My eldest daughter, who lives at Benson in Oxfordshire, has already called to express her relief that the next village is not called Hedges. However she is not far from Newbury, whose signposts will soon be the subject of a bidding war between Friends of the Earth and Tarmac. My parents, who live in Plymouth, do not much look forward to being guided homeward by a giant bottle of gin.

In case anyone thinks that the Watts initiative is some spur of the moment thing, this is far from the case. Mr Watts has clearly thought it through . . . or halfway through. He has swept aside the objections of the AA, for example, like a joyrider flattening a bollard.

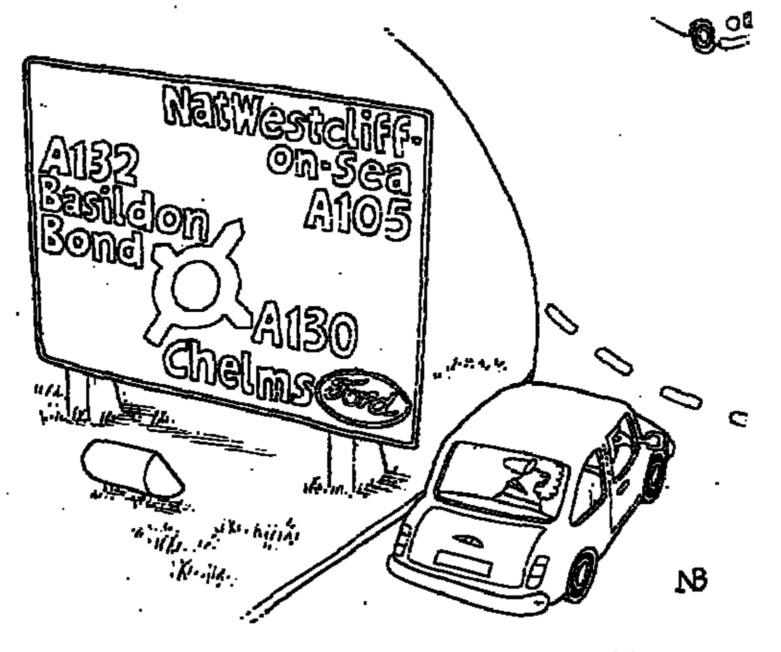
The AA mildly ventured the thought that drivers might be "distracted" by sponsorship messages as they peered through rain, fog and other manifestations of the British climate in search of the road to Watford. Distracted! What a bunch of wimps!

"This would be a way of applying the Private Finance Initiative for the benefit of motorists," sayeth Mr Watts. "Road signs could be better constructed with the aid of private sponsorship."

Oh, I see. Or rather, no I don't see. This statement is twaddle. What it means is: hello, here's a way of making some money. How in the name of sanity could a road sign be better constructed by having a sponsor? I have been saying for months that the Department of Transport ought to be closed down because it has no sensible role: Mr Watts has proved I am right.

Unfortunately, it appears that this daft scheme will not quickly go away, for Mr Watts promises us "primary legislation". A whole Bill, in other words, to enable signposts to be cluttered up with advertising slogans. As I said, you could not make it up — pure Watts in Wonderland, sponsored by Walt Disney.

Still, I cannot hang about talking to you lot much longer, as I have to rush off up the A67 to affix this column's logo to a signpost: Barnard Castle, one mile. Driven to Distraction could hardly be a more appropriate opening sponsor.



Messing about in quotes

Direct insurance means you pick up the telephone and they tell you exactly what it will cost . . . or do they? **Sue Baker** investigates

When direct insurance arrived, it offered two things: all you needed to do was pick up a phone and premiums would be lower. The latter appears to be something of a lottery, and may depend on when you make your call and who answers as you shop around.

A survey of more than 20 car insurers for *Car 96* has revealed not only wide gaps between quotes, but also surprising discrepancies between premiums offered by the same company at different times.

We sought quotes for three car owners: a young bachelor male with a BMW, a thirtysomething woman with a family Ford, and a middle-aged man, with a sporty Rover. For each quote we rang the same companies twice, giving identical details each time, but using a different name on the second call. In some cases quotes differed by only just a few pounds, but in others it was by £40 or more, and one quote changed by more than £300.

The first driver for whom we sought cover is a 21-year-old office worker from Grays in Essex. He has held a licence for three years, has two years' no claims discount and drives an eight-year-old, E-registration BMW 316 worth about £3,800. It has an immobiliser, and is left parked overnight outside his home.

More than half the companies declined to quote, and only 11 of those surveyed were prepared to offer him insurance. A day later, he rang them all again. This time only 10 would give him a quote and one company, which had done so a day earlier now declined. Of the others, only two quoted the same premium and excess as before. Three gave the same quote with a different excess. One increased the premium by 30p, but reduced the excess by £25. Three companies gave a higher quote the second time; one was now lower.

There was also a vast gulf between the highest and lowest quotes. The cheapest premium he was offered, by Norwich Union Direct, was £607. The dearest, quoted by Help Insurance, was £1,227.

Our second test case is a 35-year-old nurse living in Nottingham, who drives a Ford Mondeo worth about £9,000. It has a standard Ford alarm and immobiliser and is garaged overnight. She has been driving for 15 years and has a full no-claims bonus, but has a conviction for speeding.

We tried all same companies again. This time none of them shunned her business, but five quotes changed between the two calls, one by more than £150. Again there was wide variation in what she was invited to pay, ranging from £167 with Sun Alliance to £337 with Commercial Union Direct.

> 'We all need to improve our systems'

Test case three is a 51-year-old self-employed painter and decorator, who, like the young driver, lives at Grays in Essex. He has been driving for 30 years and has a clean licence. He has a three-year-old sporty Rover 214i 16-valve, K registration and with a standard Rover alarm.

Again, quotes differed. Seven varied from the day before, one by more than £50. The cheapest premium offered was £124 with Guardian Direct, the dearest £254 with Zurich.

How can the wide variations made by the same company for the same risk happen? James Wootten, director of Motor Advice, the car insurance monitoring service which assisted us with the survey, surmises that they are caused by weary telephone quote line operators making slight errors while keying in the information they are given.

"I think one of the problems is that it is a rather dull job and perhaps an operator's attention may lapse occasionally after hours of gazing at the screen, he said. "Apart from that, I can give no explanation. It just should not happen."

The biggest variation in quotes came from one of the newest direct companies, Help Insurance. Overnight, the premium quoted to the same driver changed by £304.52p. Underwriting assistant general manager Chris Hanks was refreshingly frank.

"Help is very new, a pilot operation, so we are still settling down. I am unhappy to hear that people got different quotes on different days for the same set of circumstances, and I wouldn't want it to happen, but we are still on the learning curve."

Direct motor insurance is "a very dynamic environment," says Hanks. "Some companies do change their rates day by day. They go after a certain area of business for a limited time and then change back and try something else. I think what your survey has shown up is all about the growing pains of the direct insurance business. We all need to improve our systems, make our screens more user-friendly and improve the quality of training for the operators who take the calls."

The second largest disparity was the £153 difference between two quotes, a few hours apart, sought from Privilege for the woman driver. It transpired that, although she said in both calls that she had a full no-claims discount, Privilege's records showed that the second, higher quote had been based on the operator noting a no-claims record of only one year.

Spokesperson Nina Wheeler said that if a mistake had been made and a higher than necessary premium quoted, it would have been put right when the proposal form was completed.

ADVERTISING ARCHIVES

Insurance advertising in the Fifties: the motorist's problem today may be confusion rather than confrontation

HOW THE QUOTES VARIED

Robert Taylor (Steven Smith on second call), a 21-year-old administration assistant driving an eight-year-old BMW 316 and living in Grays, Essex.

Company	Taylor	Smith	Difference
Help Insurance	£923.38	£1227.90	£304.52
Insurance Service	£746.07	£769.07	£23.00
Norwich Union Direct	£607.67	£649.16	£41.49
Zurich	£1007.00	No quote*	—
Broker	£908.14	£862.00	£46.14

*Zurich declined a quotation to "Smith", although personal details were the same as for "Taylor".

Ann Smith (Sarah Baker), a 35-year-old nurse from Nottingham driving a Ford Mondeo.

Company	Smith	Baker	Difference
Eagle Star Direct	£216.28	£220.25	£3.97
Insurance Service	£230.11	£256.24	£26.13
Norwich Union Direct	£186.70	£196.21	£9.51
Privilege	£209.00	£362.00	£153.00
Royal Direct	£226.99	£270.04	£43.03

Alan Thompson (David Brown), a 51-year-old builder driving a Rover 214SI and also living in Grays.

Company	Thompson	Brown	Difference
Admiral	£207.66	£203.00	£4.66
Commercial Union Direct	£264.25	£210.07	£54.18
Direct Line	£155.90	£159.90	£4.00
Eagle Star Direct	£186.33	£200.90	£14.57
General Accident Direct	£199.92	£178.32	£21.60
Zurich	£254.56	£212.62	£41.94
Premium Search	£169.45	£180.41	£10.96

Cheaper, smaller and plusher

Vaughan Freeman explains why new car prices will keep falling

Prices for new cars, like the car themselves, will shrink over the next 10 years as motor manufacturers sell them for less than the vehicles they will replace.

The Japanese call it "price destruction", and Ian McAllister, Ford of Britain's chairman, believes that the trend is catching on here as carmakers fight to maintain or expand their share of a new car market that is likely to stay frozen at today's 2 million cars a year for the foreseeable future.

The move to lower prices has also been driven by growing pressure from motorists, who are simply refusing to pay for new cars. Increasingly they are buying nearly-new vehicles that have been used for four, five or six months on a daily rental fleet. These cars come to the used market in immaculate condition, covered by manufacturer's warranty, and are on average £3,000 cheaper than the vehicle would cost new.

In response, Mitsubishi has announced the launch of its new Colt, priced from £9,799, which is £120 less than the vehicle it is replacing, despite improved equipment. Daihatsu is also freezing prices, and announced the launch of its 1996 Charade cars at 1994 prices. The Charade range starts at £8,295, despite benefitting from a revamp inside and out, getting power steering, and an approved anti-theft engine immobiliser as standard.

McAllister says: "My perception is that in future new car prices will not rise much faster than inflation, even given the extra equipment that goes in as standard.

"People have to assume that there will be continuing downward pressure on new car prices, with prices in real terms falling, that is rising at a rate lower than inflation."

Manufacturers looking to freeze or cut prices, or to introduce rises below the rate of inflation, are also concerned to protect the used value of a vehicle once a motorists has had it for two, three or four years, and then looks to, part-exchange it against a replacement new vehicle.

By reducing the cost of a car new, manufacturers hope to protect that used value or "residual" value of the car second-hand, so that when they are ready to buy another new car and part-exchange it against their old one, the owner is left with more equity in their old vehicle, so making the purchase less painful financially.

McAllister says cars will get smaller but more luxurious. Where once only 8 per cent of small Fords sold were Ghia cars, fitted with every luxury available, today that has risen to 20 per cent as customers demand greater comfort.

He believes it is a trend that will continue. Young motorists just starting out on their driving career, or older drivers who have seen their children grow up and no longer need a big car, will seek ever smaller alternatives, such as the Ford Ka, a sawn-off version of the Fiesta, VW Beetle, or Fiat Cinquecento.

However, where once small cars were seen as budget boxes in which wing mirrors and a radio were costly extras, motorists increasingly expect small cars to have big car safety and equipment — and the price will have to be right.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

VAUXHALL MOTORS WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED IN SOUTH LONDON ON THE SITE OF THE HOME — FULKS HALL — OF A MEDIEVAL WARRIOR, FULK LE BRÉANT.....
Vauxhall
.....TAKING HIS HERALDIC EMBLEM AS ITS LOGO THE COMPANY LATER MOVED TO LUTON, COINCIDENTALLY LE BRÉANT'S COUNTRY SEAT.
AFTER BUYING HIS FIRST RACING CAR, THE YOUNG NIKI LAUDA TOLD HIS DISAPPROVING PARENTS THAT HE WAS ONLY LOOKING AFTER IT FOR A FRIEND.....
12
STUDEBAKER'S STYLING CHIEF, RAYMOND LOEWY, ALSO DESIGNED THE AGA COOKER.....

هكذا من الاصل

'They passed into oblivion, but would be a wonderful addition to our heritage'

Continued from p1

motoring Klondike at the turn of the century, companies sprouting up in every street to strike the gold of designing a car that would become world renowned. But companies waxed and waned, struggling against the problems of developing new cars at huge cost against competition from big corporations.

Harry J. Lawson was the father of the motor industry in Coventry, incorporating his Daimler Motor Syndicate in 1896. But he was simply the first to the lawyer's office because engineers were hammering and welding cars together before then, employing the skills of the city's bicycle and sewing machine makers. A year before, Frederick Lanchester had made a car in Birmingham, while, in the same city, a young man working as general manager of the Wolseley Sheep Shearing Company had made a three-wheeled car: his name was Herbert Austin.

But Coventry was a natural location for the birth of the British motor car: the city had companies with workers used to machine tools and "metal bashing" and there were dozens of businesses looking for opportunities to make products that would get them out of the slump in bicycle manufacturing.

Unfortunately, most cars on sale had to be imported because Lawson had a lock on patents for the Benz engine which stifled development until the courts released his control in 1901. That was the signal for an explosion of carmaking: within five years there were 50 registered carmakers in Britain, most extending established businesses involved in marine engineering, cycle-making and horse-drawn carriages.

By 1911, Coventry was employing 6,838 workers in the car industry, turning out 9,000 vehicles a year. By 1921, the employment figure was up to almost 18,700 and growing as carmaking flourished.

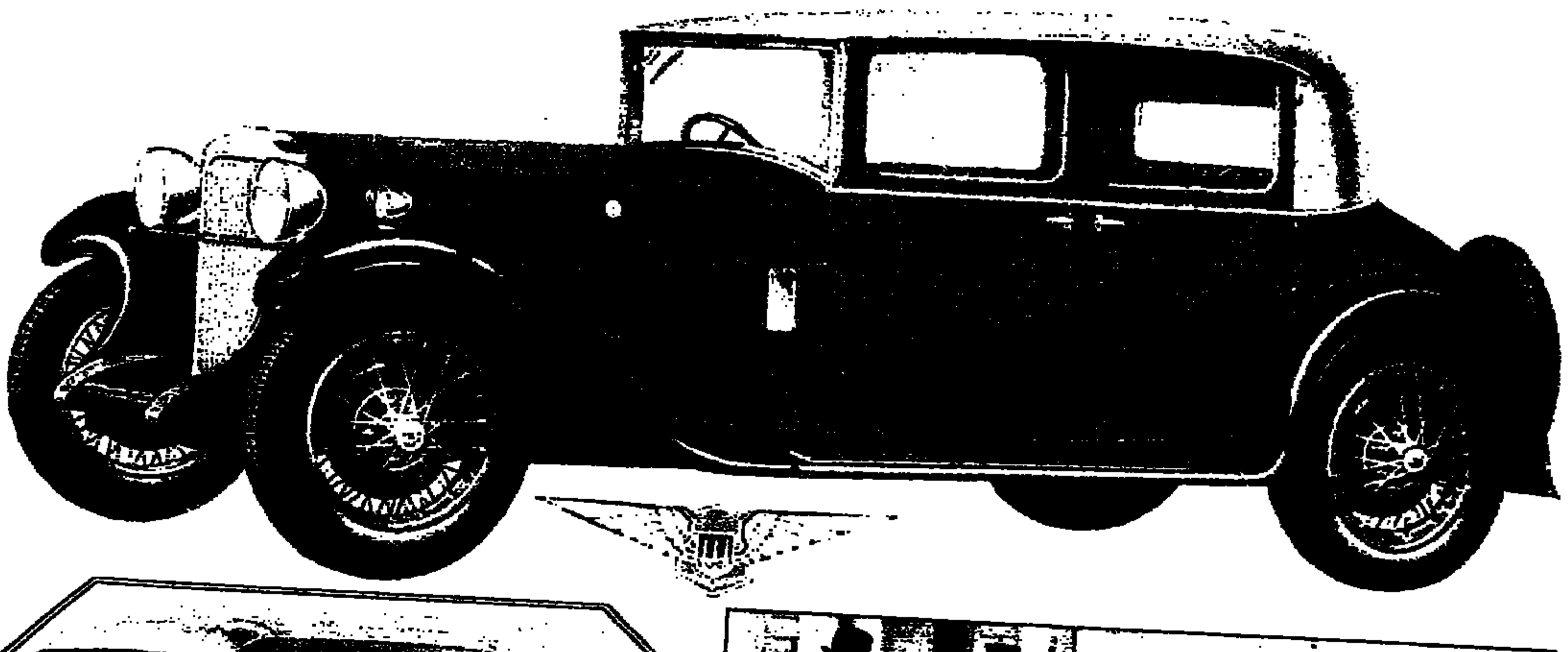
Companies such as Clark Cluley, a business founded in 1890 as textile machinists but which was soon fostering ambitions to join the motoring revolution, entered the fray. The company made bicycles and a tri-car, called the Globe Cymocar, but in 1922 decided to make the real thing, launching the Cluley Light Car and following up with a six-cylinder model. The experiment lasted only six years though, the Cluley dying out as quickly as it was founded, the cars lost for generations to come. — the sort of model *Car 96* wants to trace.

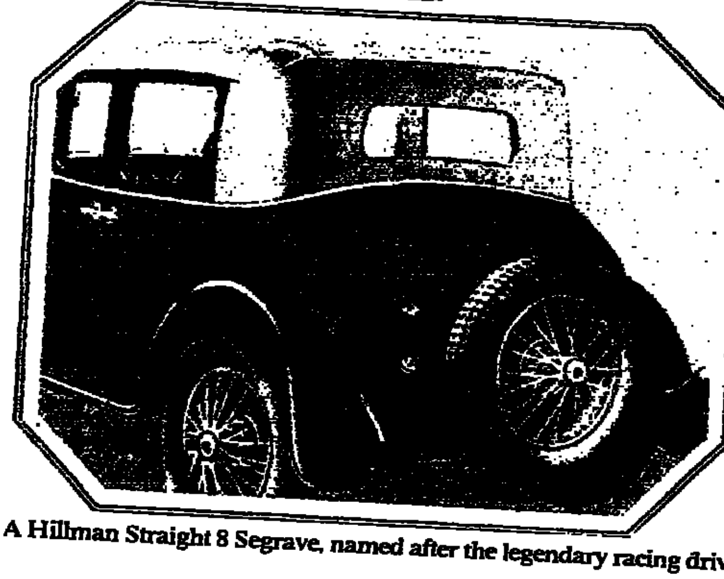
Even companies which managed to become established produced models that seem to have disappeared forever. When Henry Segrave was the 1920s equivalent of Damon Hill, he gave his name to Hillman's Straight 8 Segrave Model. Hillman — formed by William Hillman, once a manufacturer of bikes and roller skates — went on to be absorbed by the Rootes Group and then Chrysler, and the Segrave car has never been traced, making it another we want to find.

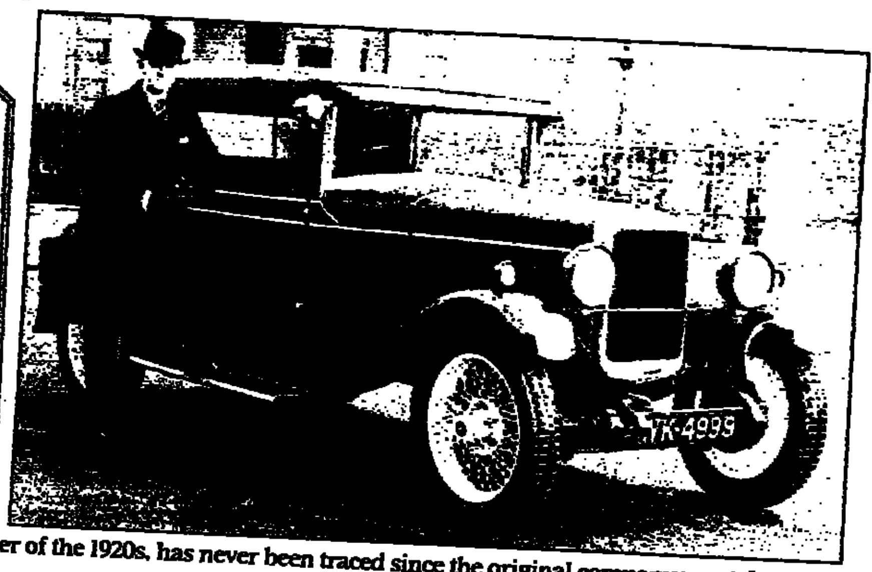
Lea-Francis was formed in 1895, but did not start making cars until the 1920s, finding success with its sports models, including the Hyper, one of which won the 1928 Ulster TT driven by Kaye Don. But Lea-Francis was beset by financial problems, finally expiring in 1954. The company name has been revived twice since, but that Hyper model probably represents the zenith of the company's efforts and a car which would find a fitting place in our investigations.

John Horton, one of the team organising Coventry's summer celebrations, says: "Some of these models just seemed to vanish off the face of the earth. It is fascinating that there have been as many as 132 companies operating in and around Coventry over the past 100 years. They were obviously businesses that planned to make cars and become successful manufacturers, but so many were here one day and gone the next. Many models have disappeared into oblivion, but if we can trace some of them, they would be a wonderful addition to our heritage and our centenary celebrations."

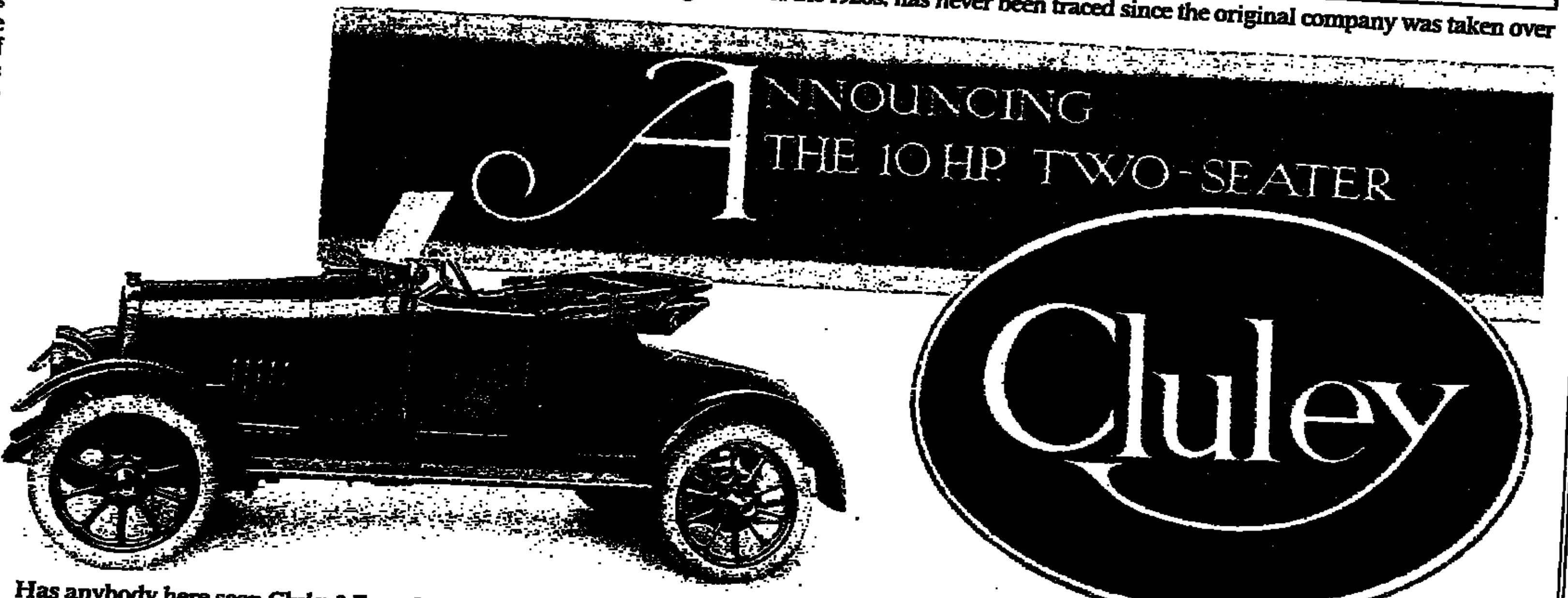
So the quest has started to find the cars of Coventry's yesteryear, the most obscure and rare models that flickered briefly into brilliant life only to be killed off by the harshness of economic life or the vagaries of public taste. Somewhere out there are cars with the most unlikely names. But if you know where they are, join the *Car 96* quest to find a lost heritage.







A Hillman Straight 8 Segrave, named after the legendary racing driver of the 1920s, has never been traced since the original company was taken over



Has anybody here seen Cluley? Founded in 1890 as textile machinists, the company made its first real car in 1922; six years later they vanished

Founded in 1895, Lea-Francis was a more successful survivor, lasting as a carmaker from 1920 to 1954. Its Hyper model was the peak of its achievements

BARNSTORMING SUCCESSES

The unique 1935 Bentley 3½-litre on sale this weekend

ONE OF the staples of the classic car market is the "barn find" — the rare or historic car tucked away when it was replaced or left when an owner died.

"You might have thought that anyone who owned a barn would have gone and combed it for the last wheel nut when prices were so high in the 1980s, yet still amazing things turn up," says Robert Brooks, Britain's leading classic car auctioneer. These vehicles often neglected for decades and sometimes no more than a box of bits don't sell for the highest prices but and offer extraordinary opportunities to restorers.

A Brooks sale at London's Olympia today features several examples including a unique 1935 Bentley 3½-litre with coupe de ville coachwork by Park Ward and bearing the registration B 76, itself a valuable asset and included in the £6,000-£8,000 estimate.

There is also a 1929 Belgian-built Minerva dismantled after being rescued from a scrapyard 30 years ago minus its bodywork and has since been stored but not restored. Its estimate is £2,000-£4,000. A sadly neglected Bristol 403 is also offered as a restoration project at £1,500-£2,000. At the other end of the scale are two perfectly-preserved veterans: a 1902 Glasgow-built Arrol-Johnston six-seater Dog Cart (£30,000-£40,000) and a 1901 De Dion-engined four seater (£20,000-£25,000). Although the car's history is known since 1907, its maker remains a mystery.

RESTORATION MASTERPIECE

Hugo Spowers and the reconstructed 1969 Jaguar

THE CAR that Hugo Spowers and his specialists at Prowess Racing have just renovated hardly reflects the finest hour of the British motor industry. But it is a brilliant example of how the classic car business can produce something better than new.

The 1969 Jaguar Mk X 420G was built when the car industry here was renowned more for strikes than for technology or build quality. The restored version will be driven by Takehiko Abe, a Japanese cosmetics tycoon, after a year-long £90,000 rebuild. It is an original limousine with the retro looks sought after in Japan, 1990s build quality and brakes and suspension a lot better than the originals.

What Prowess has done is virtually to reconstruct the car from the interior of its steel chassis to the last dot of chrome on the headlamps. "Our client wanted a Mk X that he could drive regularly. Although this one had undergone a cosmetic restoration and had chassis problems, it was complete with original fittings," says Spowers.

The bulk of the £90,000 represents labour charges including 750 hours of restructuring, carried out by Allen Corcoran, a cheerful Australian with a passion for welding. "The quality of the original restoration work wasn't bad, but a lot of rust had been covered up with mastic. Plates had been welded in with lap joints which allow condensation. I've welded everything with joints butting up against the original, allowing no room for condensation and painted inside the main box sections to seal the seams," he says.

The Prowess team work on two or three cars at a time in a small workshop tucked away in the leafy bit of Surrey. "We've spent £17,000 working on the engine of this car. We can make minor parts ourselves and if we need anything bigger there are a lot of small engineering places with spare capacity. Only things like major electrical work need a contractor," says Spowers.

"The way we've restored this car it will last another 20 years without major work and probably hold its value. You could buy a new Mercedes for the same price, but think of the depreciation."

Tom Merrin hears the story of a Panhard et Lavassor with a unique history

The family runabout for 96 years

Edward Jarvis, bicycle maker to the gentry, was impressed by the car driven by one his customers who arrived at his shop in 1899. The customer was Charles Rolls, later to be the partner of Henry Royce; the car was a Panhard et Lavassor.

So Jarvis bought one for £750 (the equivalent of £135,000 today) — and started a story that is probably unique in the history of motoring. Nearly a century later, the black, red and gold car is still running — and is still in the same family.

As its equipment does not include a mileometer, it is impossible to say how far the Victorian wagonette has travelled, but it is now kept in Colin Gibbins's garage — and still makes the occasional run out, although it can show the temperament of old age.

The family connection runs directly from the first Edward Jarvis to his son, another Edward, then on to his son, John, who married, Mary, Colin Gibbins's sister. Colin has three sons waiting to carry on the line into a second century.

Buffing up the brasswork on the gleaming vehicle, retired engineer Colin filled in the details of the story.

"Panhard and his partner, Levassor, had been in business for about two or three years when Edward Jarvis first saw her at his business in London's Edgware Road.

"She obviously impressed the old man, because he ordered one from France. All he got was the chassis, axles, wheels and engine, so that part of the car is French. The rest was made in by a coachworks in Reading."

From 1899, Jarvis drove the car around London, and once took it on what was then a highly adventurous 24-hour marathon. On his death, it passed to Edward junior, but he never shared his father's enthusiasm and hardly drove it. It was laid up, moving parts well greased, solid rubber tyres removed, and for 23 years stayed, unused, in a garage.

By the time it came back on the road, it was a 30-year-old veteran and two years later Edward drove it in its first London to Brighton run. Since then, it has taken part in more than 25 of the famous rallies.

In 1938, Edward junior gave the car to his son, John, and for more than half a century John and his wife, Enid, took it on veteran rallies and family outings.

"Despite its age, we regularly went for drives in it," Enid recalled. "In the early days, most people didn't have cars and it was quite an event to go for a spin."

The fame of the car grew in proportion to its age and one of the highspots of its long life was when it appeared in the 1953 film *Genevieve*.

John Jarvis, now 84, gave up driving and maintaining the car three years ago and handed it over to his brother-in-law, Colin, 70, who carries on the family tradition of caring for it in a garage shared with three vintage Rolls-Royces at his home in West Wittering, Sussex. John lives just 50 yards away in the quiet seaside close and makes regular visits to it and to be taken for drives.

"John and Mary have no children, and when he passed the car on to me it meant it was staying in the family," said Colin. "I can't see it ever leaving us now. I have three sons — all of them in their forties — and they're all in love with it.

"Everything about this old lady is original. She has wooden wheels and the body is all wood as well. The insurance cover limits me to driving only 500 miles a year, so the tyres are good for a while yet and I have a spare set."

The eight-horsepower engine drives two hefty chains which turn the rear wheels and, flat out, the old car can touch 36mph, three times the speed limit when it was built.

"She has four forward and four reverse gears, but the only instrument on her is a water pressure gauge," said Colin. "It's no good even guessing how far she has travelled in nearly 100 years. There's no mileometer, so we'll never know.

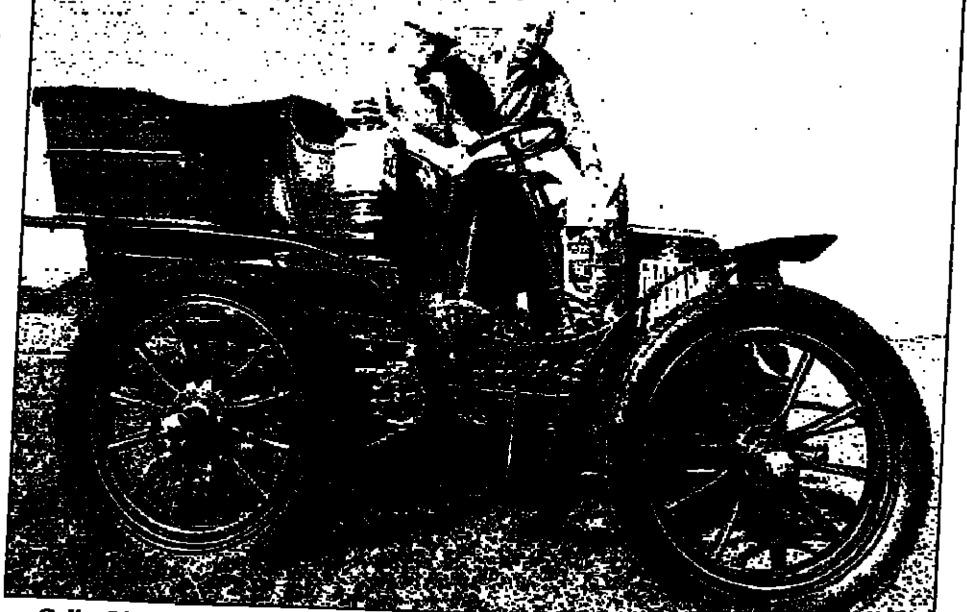
"But what we do know is that she is one of the 20 or so oldest cars in the world that are still runnning."

There is no accurate valuation on the car, but Colin estimates that it is worth at least £100,000, and her rare numberplate — H 786 — would fetch a small fortune at auction.

"But there's no chance she would ever be sold," he added. "She's part of the family . . . and the oldest part."

And, like a very elderly maiden aunt, the old car has its own quirks. When Colin and his wife, Mary, struggled with a heavy starting handle and timing gear to start the engine for a run round the block, she simply refused to perform.

"She's having one of her off days," Colin explained. "But at her age you obviously can't expect perfect behaviour all the time."



ROGER BAMBER

Colin Gibbins and John Jarvis: "She's part of the family . . . and the oldest part"

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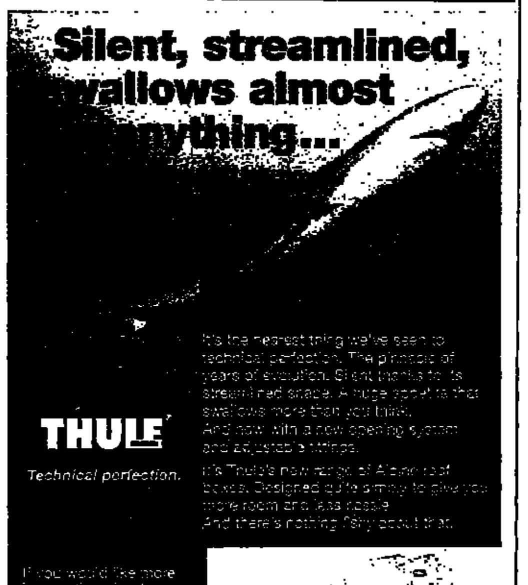

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Despite coming to a shattering halt on the M1, **Kevin Eason** is waving the flag for the new Ford Escort

Ford's unexpected winner: I know all that talk about the Escort being boring, mass-produced old rubbish, but it is a terrifically well-packaged town car

ESCORT 1.6L CTX

Price: £12,570.

Engine: 1.6-litre, double overhead camshaft, 16-valve delivering 90PS at 5,500rpm. Front-wheel-drive through continuously variable belt-driven stepless transmission. Low gear included for traction in wet or snow.

Performance: From 0-60mph in 14 seconds, top speed 108mph. Fuel consumption 47.1 miles to the gallon at constant 56mph, 37.7mpg at 75mph constant and 25.7mpg in simulated mixed town and motorway driving.

Equipment: Full anti-theft package, including lockable fuel filler flap, alarm and engine immobiliser, remote tailgate release and driver's airbag are all standard.

Insurance group: 8.

CVT — GETTING BETTER

Engineers at Ford will next week strip their troublesome CVT gearbox to find out what went wrong. But within minutes of arriving at their garage in Brentford, west London, they were already speculating that the internal belt had snapped, *writes Kevin Eason.*

Conventional automatics work, in effect, by eliminating the clutch, automatically reading the car's speed and changing up and down for the driver. But automatics can be slow to "kick down" when overtaking, tend to be more fuel-thirsty than manuals and slower to accelerate.

Engineers claim that the new generation of continuous variable transmissions have overcome those faults. Most people remember CVT technology from the long-gone Daf Variomatic, which was ponderous in the extreme; a push on the throttle pedal met only with a rush of engine revs while the gearbox steeled itself for action. That was because the CVT system works through a series of pulleys and a drive belt which remains the same length whatever the power, so that engine torque — or pulling power — remains constant. A push on the throttle releases revs, tightening the belt to deliver more power.

The principle remains about the same today, although the technology has been radically altered so that response to the throttle is now immediate. Engine noise does not get louder either, because there is no downshift from the gearbox, the only difference in sounds being a high-pitched, though not intrusive whine.

Ford is not the only company on the CVT bandwagon; Rover's only automatic in its new 200 range is CVT, and excellent it is too. Rover claims its 200 CVT will run at 70mph at just 2,700 rpm — slightly below the Escort — while economy figures are virtually the same as for a five-speed manual. There is also no loss of performance, with 0-60mph coming in 9.8 seconds (9.3 for the 1.6 manual), while top speed is 115mph (118mph).

The problem will be reassuring drivers that something new is good. Early CVT cars certainly seem to have suffered reliability problems and are perhaps best avoided on the used car forecourts.

But more recent models feel sharper and should be more responsive, putting drivers at ease with a package so radically different. In any event, look for signs of the car creeping forward too quickly from rest without the throttle and listen for any unpleasant "thunks" when the gearbox is engaged from neutral.

Total failure, complete success

Kiri Te Kanawa and I were battling our way through *Tosca* when we were rudely interrupted by a loud bang certainly not in Puccini's score. Confirmation that my hearing was not being assaulted by an errant bass drummer came when my Ford Escort almost stood on its nose and the engine revved at such a rate that the racket drowned out a full orchestra at top volume.

Mild surprise turned into full-blown panic when I realised the Escort had lost all forward momentum, the automatic gearbox had clearly shattered and the inner workings of the car were dismantling themselves at speed in the outside lane of the M1.

There was a large Volvo breathing down my tailpipe and two cars on my inside as the Escort slowed from 70mph to walking speed in a few seconds. Fortunately, the plume of smoke from under the car must have alerted them to the fact that I was struggling and they weaved out of the way so that I could guide the car to the hard shoulder.

There I surveyed the trail of oil into the distance while the Escort stood forlorn, with a quiet hiss depositing the rest of its gearbox oil gently on the tarmac in a purple puddle.

At Scratchwood Services — as the car was lifted on to a trailer to be returned to Ford — I called Bob Wright, the company's man in charge of the press car fleet. I think the blood drained from his face when I told him what had happened, for a shattered car with just 3,000 miles on the clock is not the best advertisement for Ford's new protege.

Yet the blow-up seemed such a shame because, up to that point, I was pretty impressed with the Escort with its continuous variable transmission, known as CVT or CTX to Ford, that had so conspicuously let me down.

Ford is among a series of manufacturers pushing CVT transmissions as the latest gizmo of the future: an automatic gearbox with no steps up and down, just a continuous band of power. Trouble was that *my* gearbox ended up being all bang and no whizz.

For two days however, I was mightily impressed, so much so, dear Reader, that I want you to put down that teacup and take a few minutes to put all thoughts from your mind, forget your preconceptions and relax, for I am going to tell you something you probably would not expect: the Ford Escort is a good car.

Yes, I know all that talk in the magazines about the Escort being boring, mass-produced old rubbish and yes, there was that bit earlier in this account about the gearbox going up in a puff of smoke. Hardly encouraging, I admit. But honestly, the Escort has a lot going for it, and if that CVT gearbox really is reliable — and my experience is just a one-off — then it is a terrifically well-packaged town car.

> It may have the best interior in its segment

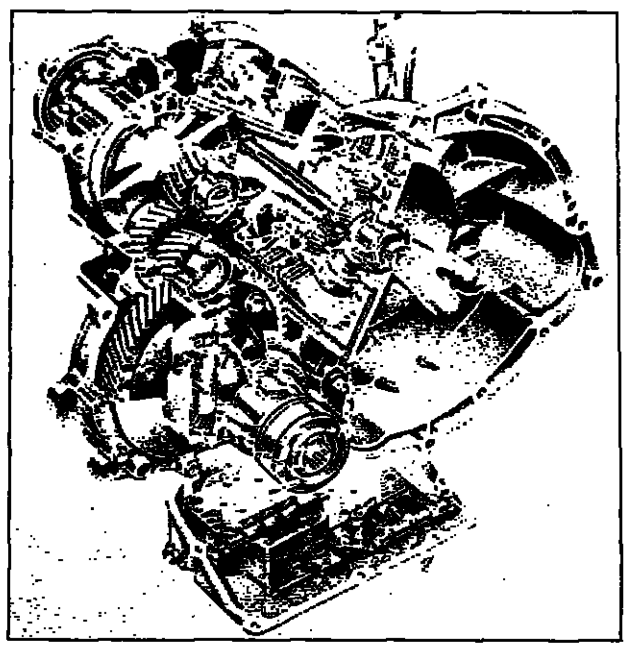
After being Britain's top-selling model for a decade, the Escort was revamped to a chorus of yawns from the critics, so dreary were its driving characteristics, so lacklustre its looks.

The car always sells well because Ford has the muscle to discount it into company fleets and hire businesses. But private buyers would probably be surprised by the car in its latest incarnation. It looks bright enough, if not outstanding, but probably has the best interior in its segment; the switchgear and overall feel of the cabin welcoming and comfortable.

Then there are the bits and pieces that separate Escort from the rest of the pack, such as the classy stereo, which I was enjoying — I'm not sure about Kiri — at the time of my gearbox crisis, and comprehensive anti-theft and security package. Ride and handling have also been improved hugely from the dull as dishwater response and stodgy suspension of the past. Escort is still not class leader in that department, but for the type and length of driving done by most motorists in this country who do not, on the whole, aspire to be the next Damon Hill, its abilities are plenty good enough.

But that CVT provides plenty of fascination, particularly for motorists who do most of their driving around town. You simply push the gearstick into Drive and off you go. Although Ford figures show the automatic to be a bit slower off the mark than the manual 1.6-litre (14 seconds to 60mph compared with 11.6), there is no feeling of lag in acceleration, just a smooth takeoff. It takes only a few hours to get over the idea that there should be the customary jerk of changing gears from the transmission, although it seemed to me like blessed release from the curse of the clutch.

However, there is apparently only one other trick to full enjoyment of the Escort's continuous variable transmission — and that is to keep it going continuously.



Ford's CVT gearbox: a long way from the Daf Variomatic

Employees who wreck the company finances

Memo to fleet manager: Here's a way to save a fortune by teaching our people to drive

YOU ARE in your office, idly looking out at the car park full of shiny cars all belonging to employees. Along comes a vandal clutching a baseball bat and, without a second thought, he's smashing windows, headlamps and panels, *writes Kevin Eason.*

It's an horrific prospect, yet thousands of cars are damaged that recklessly in company fleets — wrecked by employees too incompetent at the wheel or too cavalier to care what it costs.

That is why we are launching *The Times*-Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year Competition, our quest for the best men and women who drive vehicles that belong to businesses, hospitals, surgeries, fire services — anyone who spends all or part of their working day at the wheel.

The six regional finals are not only a serious test of skill, comprising judgment examinations, questions on the Highway Code and a session at the wheel of a new Nissan Almera 1.6 on the road, they are also fun for drivers who want to improve.

The best go to the final at Silverstone, where the Silverstone Driving Centre — the school run by former Formula One ace, John Watson — will put competitors through a series of high-speed challenges. And there is the bonus of a terrific prize for the eventual winner the competition in the form of a touring holiday for two in Europe, in a car provided by Lease Plan.

Lease Plan, one of Europe's leading leasing companies, decided to sponsor the competition for the third year because its executives see the appalling damage reckless driving does to company finances, without even taking into account the despair and hurt of injuries and death.

The irony is that no company would set any employee to work on a lathe or press without giving them adequate training and setting safeguards in place. Yet they happily give their employees machines costing anywhere between £9,000 and £90,000 not knowing if they will return in one piece. Nobody tests their competence at the wheel.

"I fear that many companies still regard driver training as an expense as opposed to an investment," says Vahid Daemi, Lease Plan's managing director. "Yet nothing could be further from the truth, as the more far-sighted companies are discovering."

The evidence comes from a Lease Plan study, which found that 42 per cent of accidents reported to fleet managers last year were classed as "avoidable". In other words, the driver was careless or inattentive. The cost of those accidents is huge: Lease Plan says that repairs averaged £683 per car last year, compared with £633 the year before.

COUPLED with the rising cost of claims, that should be setting fleet managers thinking hard. In no other area of company spending would costs be allowed to be so uncontrolled.

Daemi says: "The figures are compelling, but when we asked how many companies actually carry out driver training of any kind we were stunned by the results. Very few seem to take the subject seriously at all."

In fact, only 44 per cent of big companies with more than 5,000 employees have offered training, and even among those, it has reached only an average 22 per cent of the workforce. The figures plummet the smaller the business: only 19 per cent of companies with 1,000 to 5,000 employees offer training, 10 per cent of those with 50 to 250 people and 4 per cent of businesses with fewer than 50 people.

"There is a direct impact on costs here which companies are not tackling and which they could easily do something towards," adds Daemi. "But more than that. Training leads to more skilful drivers who take pride in their motoring and enjoy their time at the wheel, testing themselves and their abilities against what they have been taught.

"Our experience is that Company Car Driver of the Year is a lot of fun. It also means that there are a lot of drivers who entered the competition, improved their standards — and improved their chances of bringing the company car back in one piece."

MIKE POWELL

Vahid Daemi: "Very few firms take the subject seriously"

ENTRY FORM

ABOUT YOUR COMPANY...

Company name: ....

Address: ....

.... Post code: ....

Tel number: .... Fax number: ....

Nature of business: ....

Number of employees: .... Number of company cars: ....

Entrant: .... Position: ....

NB: Entrant should be the director/senior manager responsible for the company's car fleet

NOMINATED DRIVERS...

	Surname	Forename	Job title	Age	Points on licence *(max 3)*
1					
2					
3					
4	*(reserve)*				

Please select your first and second choice location/date of regional heat (indicate 1 or 2 in box):

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Wigan, Lancs	Friday, 17 May	☐	Elstree, Herts	Friday, 24 May	☐
Stourport, Hereford	Friday, 31 May	☐	Leicester	Friday, 7 June	☐

Please ensure that entrant and nominated drivers are available for both first and second choice dates and for Silverstone on Friday, 21 June. Initial qualification may be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.

Once you have completed this entry form fax to Lease Plan on 01753 620676

Competition rules

The closing date for entries is 17 April 1996. Drivers must be 24 years of age to enter. Maximum number of endorsements on any competitors' driving licence is three points. Drivers must bring their current driving licence to their regional heat for confirmation of the above. Drivers must be nominated by the director or senior manager responsible for the company car fleet. Drivers must be nominated in groups of three. Companies can only enter one team to compete. The entrant may nominate him/herself as part of the team. Competitors must drive a company car or vehicle as part of their employment or remuneration package. Qualification for the team/company award will be dependant on a written test, to be completed by the entrant at their team's regional heat. Employees of Lease Plan, DriveTech, Nissan, News International and the Birkdale Group are not permitted to enter. In the spirit of the event, specialist organisations such as driving training companies, police, the armed forces and the like may not be permitted to enter. A place in the regional heats will be confirmed by post, at least ten days prior to the heat. In the event of over subscription, qualification to the regional heats will be judged through a random driver telephone questionnaire. If the team does not qualify for the regional heat, the entrant will be informed in writing prior to the first heat and the team will be placed on a reserve list. Feedback on each driver's performance will be available after the competition. The reserve driver will be called upon at the regional heat should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the event of a finalist not being able to attend, the next highest scoring driver from the regional heats will be invited to attend in their place. The prize for the winner will be a seven day European motoring holiday for two. The team/company prize will be a driver programme for twelve employees. Cash alternatives are not available. The judge's decision is final.

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E220 Cabriolet Azurite, hide, 8sw, hls	18T	£39,995
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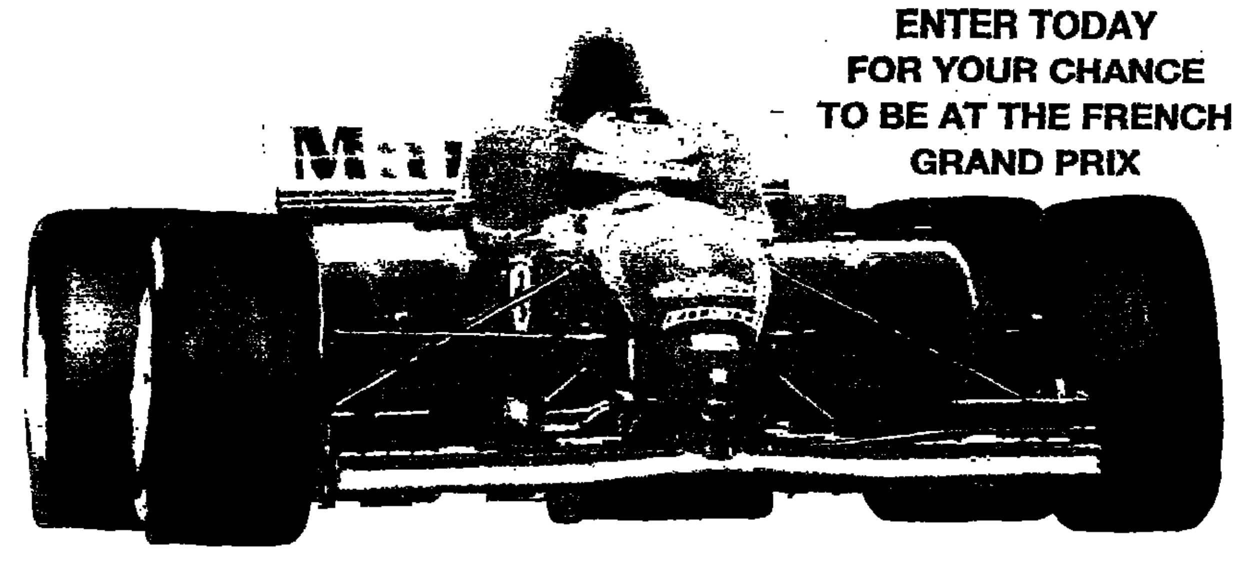
Fancy yourself as an expert on formula one racing? Do you think you can predict the result of this year's grand prix series? Then why not play our exciting new F1 Fantasy Drive competition. Listed below, right, are eight groups of drivers racing in the 1996 Formula One season. Study the groups and enter a F1 Fantasy Drive team to compete in the 15 grands prix taking place between March 31 and the end of the season for our £10,000 jackpot prize. You can enter at any time between now and noon on Thursday March 28 by selecting a total of eight drivers — one from each of the eight groups, A to H, listed right.

Once you have chosen your team fill out the coupon, far right, making a careful note of the two-digit code printed in bold for each of your selections. Please keep this coupon safe, you will need it as a record of your entry. Next ring our 24-hour entry line on 0891 40 50 32 (0044 990 100 332 in the Republic of Ireland). Calls last approximately five minutes. You will need a touchtone telephone to enter (most telephones with * and # keys are touchtone).

Follow the instructions on the entry line. You will be asked to nominate your eight (two-digit) selections in turn. You will then be asked to give your F1 Fantasy Drive team name together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number. You will receive a 10-digit PIN number as a confirmation of your entry. Please keep a record of this with your team details.

Our points-scoring system starts with the Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos on March 31 and details of a transfer system will be announced in due course, allowing you to change up to four members of your team to increase your chances of winning.



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WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO THE FRENCH GP

Enter a F1 Fantasy Drive team today and you could win a trip for two to the French Grand Prix at Magny-Cours on June 30. All entries received by noon on March 28 will enter the prize draw. The winner will be selected at random.

THE PRIZES

JACKPOT The player with the top F1 Fantasy Drive team after the Japanese Grand Prix on October 13, 1996, wins £10,000.

GRAND PRIX WINNERS Prizes will be awarded to players whose F1 Fantasy Drive team scores the most points at each grand prix from March 31 to October 13, 1996. Prizes include a pair of VIP tickets to the British grand prix at Silverstone on July 14 for the winners of the Brazilian and Argentinian races.

THE SCORING SYSTEM

1) **Qualifying points:** scored by drivers qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid: Pole position 20 points; 2nd 19; 3rd 18; 4th 17; 5th 16; 6th 15; 7th 14; 8th 13; 9th 12; 10th 11; 11th 10; 12th 9; 13th 8; 14th 7; 15th 6; 16th 5; 17th 4; 18th 3; 19th 2; 20th 1.

2) **Finishing points:** (as for qualifying points) scored by drivers for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix: 1st position 20 points; and in descending order to one point for 20th position.

3) **Lap points:** one point is scored for each lap completed in a grand prix.

4) **Improved position points:** three points are scored for each place improved from starting grid to finishing position in each race.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1 Race results will be taken as those standing at midnight on the Sunday of each grand prix. 2 The rules of the FIA, as they affect The Times F1 Fantasy Drive, will apply in relation to points. 3 Changes of circumstance: if a driver is replaced, through death or injury, you will be deemed to have chosen the new driver; if a driver transfers to another team you will keep that driver as your selection. In both instances the driver is eligible for transfer should you wish to exercise this option. 4 In the event of one or more entrants having the same score at the end of the competition a tie break will come into effect to decide the £10,000 prize winner. 5 In the event of more than one entrant having the same score for an individual race prize the winner will be selected at random.
6 The computerised record of your entry will be considered to be the entry.
7 Normal Times Newspapers rules apply and the editor's decision is final.

*Win VIP tickets to the British Grand Prix

THE WINNER of our Brazilian Grand Prix game on March 31 will win VIP hospitality for two, as guests of Jonathan Palmer, at the exciting British Grand Prix on Sunday, July 14 at Silverstone. Each place is worth £450 plus VAT.

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Jonathan Palmer Scene

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02 J Alesi	**08** M Hakkinen	**14** P Lamy	**20** R Rosset
03 D Hill	**09** H-H Frentzen	**15** P Diniz	

GROUP B	GROUP D	GROUP F	GROUP H
04 G Berger	**10** M Brundle	**16** U Katayama	**21** L Badoer
05 E Irvine	**11** R Barrichello	**17** J Verstappen	**22** A Montermini
06 J Villeneuve	**12** J Herbert	**18** O Panis	

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0891 calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times

My F1 Fantasy DriveTeam

Team name ....

Code	Drivers
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B	....
C	....
D	....
E	....
F	....
G	....
H	....

Personal identity number (Pin): ....

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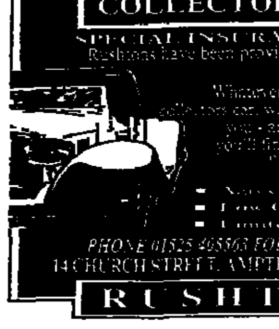

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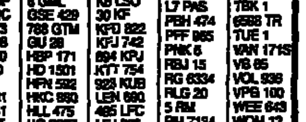

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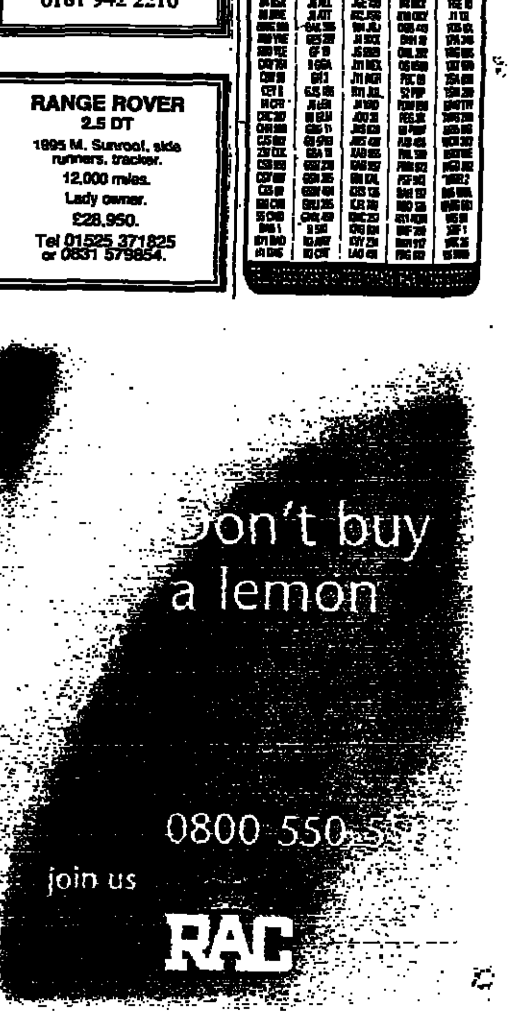


BM0050

هكذا من الاصل

Radio 5 Live's John Inverdale tells **Andrew Pierce** how his first car went to blazes

Small fire in Lincoln: one reporter hurt

BBC Radio 5 Live celebrates its second birthday next Friday. John Inverdale, who hosts the *Nationwide* drive-time programme, is the station's most popular presenter.

His velvety but mischievous tones first came to prominence on *Sports Report* on Radio 2. The face behind the voice is on show each Sunday as presenter of BBC Television's *Rugby Special*. He is now to to be anchorman on Radio 5 Live's first national roadshow next week to celebrate the station's first two years.

When did you first learn to drive?

Driving my father around the bend in Gloucestershire. Within 10 minutes of my maiden voyage I had a blue flashing light whirring behind me demanding that I pull over. I had indicated right and turned left when there was a police car directly behind us. They let me go when they knew I was still wet behind the ears.

What was your first car?

A Cortina Mark II, which I bought for £200 and sold some months later for a new copy of the Alan Parsons *Project* album. I was lucky to get that for it. I was working on the *Lincolnshire Echo on the early morning shift and* absolutely nothing was happening. I rang the fire brigade in the vain hope they might have a paragraph at least. All they had was a battered old Cortina on fire. I ran out of the office, past the cathedral, to where I had left it. My worst fears were confirmed. At least 25 per cent of it had gone up in flames when the petrol tank exploded.

What car do you drive now, and why?

A Vauxhall Astra. It is practical for London driving but, if I am brutally honest, characterless and functional, which is why I loathe it.

Do you like driving?

Yes, when I'm not in a rush. I hate it when I am. What I like best is driving holidays in places like South Africa or Ireland. All those long stretches of uncluttered roadways.

STEERING COLUMN

What is your most hated car?

The Volvo Estate. Once you have one you have booked your passport for middle age. I don't need one yet.

What is your dream car?

The E-type Jag. It is truly the only car ever made which has made me think: I want one. A man at my rugby club proudly showed off his new E-type last Friday. He had bought it for £36,000. I kicked a ball off the pitch into the car park by the side. It landed right in the middle of the bonnet.

What is your worst habit in the car?

I always leave my briefcase open on the passenger seat so that I can pay bills and answer letters when I am stuck on the Marylebone Road. It is a disgraceful and dangerous habit. But the Marylebone Road and the Westway are the two most odious pieces of tarmac I know. It is the only way I stay sane.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they block access roads, drive slowly on motorways and rubberneck at accidents. What is the matter with them?

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

I filed a football match report for a station, which will be nameless — Lincoln City — from the car purporting to still be at the ground. I had the radio on in the background for sound effects. Fortunately, the team was Boston United, so I did not have to produce an Old Trafford-style roar.

ROBIN MAYES

John Inverdale and his "characterless, but practical for London" Astra

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Sadly, three. Ten years ago, I was presenting a breakfast show on local radio and woke up on a dark December morning at 6am and thought I had missed the start of the show. I jumped out of bed, threw on a tracksuit, jumped into the car half asleep and pulled off. Alas, 100 yards later, I had written off three cars, and earned three points for driving without due care and attention.

What do you listen to in the car?

The new Oasis album. Non-stop. Prior to that, Radio 5 Live (of course) and sundry cassettes I unearth from the chaos of the car from days gone by.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Ban all cars from the Marylebone Road and the Westway. Except mine.

What is your favourite/most hated car advertisement?

The VW one where the guy drives off the top of a building. It makes me feel sick, even though the VW Golf was the best car I ever had.

Stuart Birch ponders the identity of BMW's new 3-series

Is it a saloon? Is it an estate? No, it's a Touring

The motor industry has a wonderful way with words. It is called autospeak. Carmakers have long known how certain words conjure up an image in the minds of a potential buyer — Roadster, Cabriolet, Coupé (which is sometimes misused) Grand Tourer, and that old favourite of the 1940s and 1950s, de Luxe.

But when a manufacturer creates a car which is really neither fish nor fowl (in an automotive sense, of course), a new word may be needed or an old one resurrected. BMW first put the word "Touring" on the tailgate of a semi-estate car in 1971 and used it again in 1988 for a 3-series car. Now there is a 5-series Touring and the latest 3-series can also be had in Touring guise.

The concept is a car which has some pretensions to being an estate without carrying capacity being a priority and has been influenced by designers who want fluid lines and an attractive, up-market, non-utilitarian image but with a clear element of practicality.

BMW is not the only company offering this type of car. Rover has the 400 Tourer, Audi the A4 Avant and Mercedes-Benz's new C-class, which arrives here in the summer, also conforms to the type, although the company refers to it as an estate.

The problem with a car like the BMW 3-series Touring is that it could be seen as a compromise, unable to satisfy specific needs. In fact it works effectively as a sort of elongated hatchback.

It is quick, quiet, agile, well engineered, easy to drive, with good road manners, and is comfortable, despite very firm suspension.

In theory it should be spacious, but emerge from a supermarket, start piling in the plastic bags and the load area, with rear seats in place, fills up remarkably quickly: seemingly more so than with my own 3-series Coupé. BMW says the Touring has 13 cu ft of space to window level with the rear seats in place versus the Coupé's 14.3 cu ft and the saloon's 15.4 cu ft. But fold the Touring's rear seats — an easy operation — and there is a maximum 46.6 cu ft to roof lining level. However, the Coupé's seats also fold to give a through-loading capability. I've carried carpets and trestle tables without difficulty.

Another point to consider is the Touring's looks. Regarded as an estate, it is handsome, but, of course, it is not really an estate car, says BMW. It is certainly not as attractive as the Coupé, which in my (biased) view is among the best looking cars on the road. But is the coupé really a coupé or just a two-door saloon?

BMW 320i TOURING

Price: £22,340.

Engine: Six-cylinder, 24-valve, 1991 cc, 150 bhp, driving rear wheels. Five-speed manual transmission.

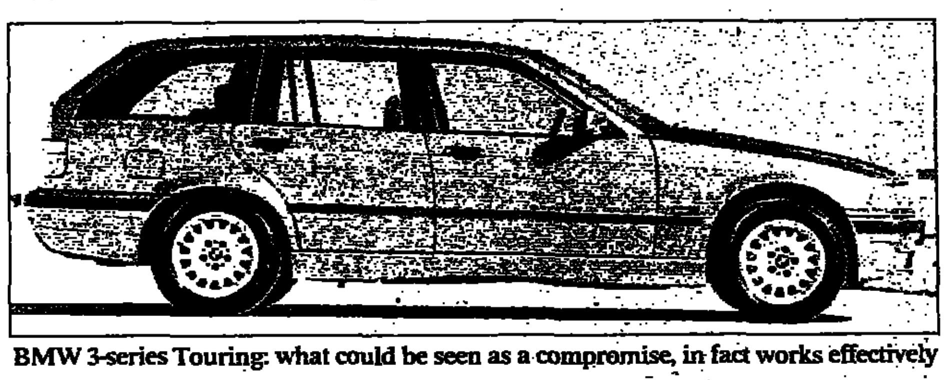
Performance: 0-60 mph, 10 seconds, top speed 132mph, 31mpg.

Insurance group: 13.

Equipment: ABS, central locking with deadlock, electronic immobiliser, driver's airbag, electric windows, mirrors and sunroof, retractable luggage cover.

Leaving aside this business of what is or is not in a name, what I can say is that the Touring has all the dynamic delights found in almost every BMW model. Driving it is always a pleasure, never a chore. There is a choice of petrol engines from 1.8 to 2.8 litres, plus a couple of diesels. I tried the 2.0 litre, 24-valve 6-cylinder which is a real smoothie, remarkably flexible and gives the car good performance and fine economy potential of around 30 mpg. The five-speed manual gearbox is one of the best in the business for change quality, but a five-speed automatic is an option at £1,120.

Equipment levels on BMWs are now better than they used to be, but a radio is still an extra-cost item on the 320i Touring, as is a passenger airbag.



BMW 3-series Touring: what could be seen as a compromise, in fact works effectively

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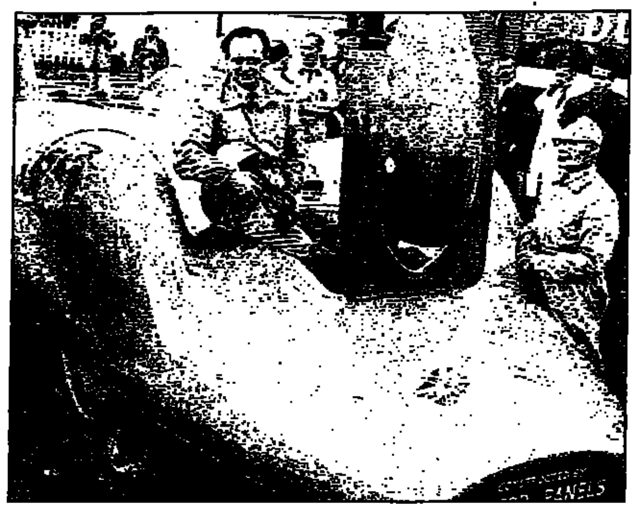
A Campbell is coming again to claim another record. **David Long** reports

Assault on a battery speed challenge



Record-breaker extraordinary: Donald Campbell, who raised the land speed record to 400mph-plus, with Bluebird in 1962

TONY WHITE

Back to Pendine Sands: designer Nelson Kruschandl, left, and Don Wales-Campbell

A new all-British attempt on the world land speed record is set to reunite three famous and historic names — Bluebird, Campbell and Pendine Sands. The Sussex-based team is aiming to smash the record for battery-powered vehicles by raising it to more than 200mph. The record-breaker will use new technology which, according to its British backers, could revolutionise public acceptance of electric cars as a viable alternative.

The driver is to be London-based photographer Don Wales-Campbell, the latest in a line of speed-obsessed Campbells who over three generations have between them broken nearly two dozen land and water speed records. Don's attempt will take place in early 1997, more than 70 years after his grandfather, Captain (later Sir) Malcolm Campbell, was first credited with a new land speed record.

The occasion will also mark the 30th anniversary of the death of Don's uncle, also called Donald, who died while attempting to set a new world water speed record.

When he first broke the record, Malcolm Campbell was driving a huge 350 horsepower V12-engined Sunbeam and he subsequently became famous for a whole series of reocrd breakers, each of which he christened Bluebird. In all Sir Malcolm broke the land speed record nine times (by 1935 he had taken it to more than 300mph) and the water speed record another four.

Campbell senior was succeeded on both land and water by his son Donald, who raised the land speed record to more than 400mph and captured the water speed record an incredible seven times. In 1967, while attempting to beat the latter once more, he was catapulted to his death in the Lake District. Yet another waterborne Campbell, Gina, later went on to set a new women's record.

Now Gina's cousin, Don Wales-Campbell, is preparing to wheel out the very latest in this long line of Bluebirds and to use it to win another outright speed record for the famous family. His vehicle is a slim, elegant wind-cheater that uses four liquid-cooled electric drives or pancake motors instead of cylinders, sparks and pistons.

There is nothing new about using battery power to break speed records, and in the pioneering days of motoring the first record attempts all used electrity. In fact the early internal combustion engines barely got a look-in and until 1902 the world land speed record was held and broken by a succession of electric cars. The most famous was Camille Jenatzy's cigar-shaped Jamais Contente, which managed a creditable 65.79mph. Even when the electric contenders were officially declared beaten, the car which finally managed to oust them was a French Serpollet powered not by petrol but by steam.

Nearly a century later, the British record for electric vehicles is still only 110mph, the world record less than 190mph. The team is confident that the new Bluebird will exceed both and it could, they say, even reach 250mph. That may look somewhat modest alongside Richard Noble's supersonic Thrust SSC project, but it offers them the opportunity to bring yet another famous name into the frame.

Precisely because the existing record for electric vehicles is comparatively low, the attempt can take place here in Britain. Noble and his team have had to decamp to the salt lakes of North America — nowhere else can provide the necessary huge stretches of smooth, flat terrain essential for 750mph-plus motoring — but the Bluebird team are instead making tracks for one of the most romantic locations in early British motoring history, Pendine Sands on the Welsh coast near Carmarthen.

Don and the car's creator, Nelson Kruschandl, are particularly pleased to have been granted permission to use Pendine Sands because it was here that the Sunbeam driven by Don's grandfather first entered the record books at 150.87mph. It was also on Pendine Sands that one of Britain's most famous early record breakers, the Higham Special affectionately known as Babs, raced in the 1920s.

With a sophisticated aluminium centre section and a lightweight composite body, the new Bluebird is strikingly different from these mammoth pre-war record-breakers. As well as its featherweight construction and excellent aerodynamics, it uses innovative energy-transfer technology developed by Kruschandl's company, Refuellable Electric Vehicles, to drive all four wheels.

His partner in REV, John Gould, is a former racing driver and something of a Campbell enthusiast. On his office wall he has the actual china Bluebirds that once graced the wall in Sir Malcolm's own study, so it is perhaps no coincidence that REV's patented system, called Wolverine refuelling, has been made available to the Bluebird team specifically for the record attempt.

Kruschandl is confident, however, that his system has more far-reaching and practical applications than merely breaking records. He has already obtained financial backing from a major UK electricity supplier to develop his road-going version which, he believes, will offer the sort of range and performance required to compete with more conventional petrol-engined vehicles.

"Our Wolverine system uses normal lead-acid batteries in an enclosed cartridge," he says. "This runs the length of the vehicle and has been designed for easy removal." Replacing the spent cartridge with a new one could therefore be undertaken in a normal filling station without the massive expenditure needed to establish a network of new recharging stations. "By swapping cartridges the vehicle can in effect be refuelled in a couple of minutes, just as you would fill-up a normal petrol or diesel-powered family car, and using the existing infrastructure of roadside garages."

A second prototype is already being constructed to demonstrate how readily the system can be incorporated into a conventional family car. The Bluebird LSR attempt should provide a high-profile demonstration of this clever new technology.

DR DASHBOARD

Sorry, we can't all go electric

Q Will the new Bluebird bring electric cars any closer for the rest of us?

A There are two big problems with electric vehicles: the weight of the batteries and their limited range.

Q But if an electric car can travel at 200mph, surely manufacturers can solve problems like that?

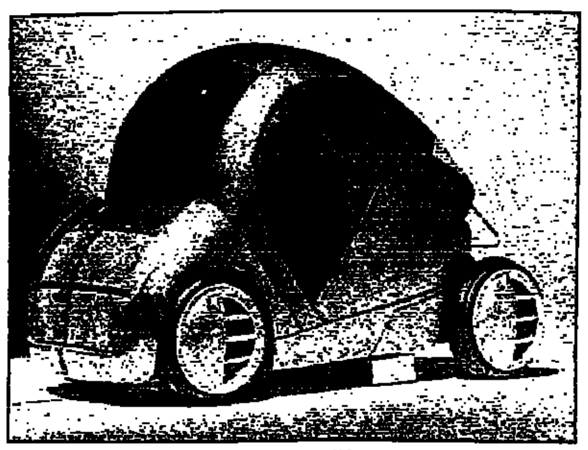
A Designing a car for record-breaking wipes out one of those problems straight away. It means it only needs a range of a few miles.

Q But we've known about those problems for years. Why doesn't the Government encourage people to come up with a solution?

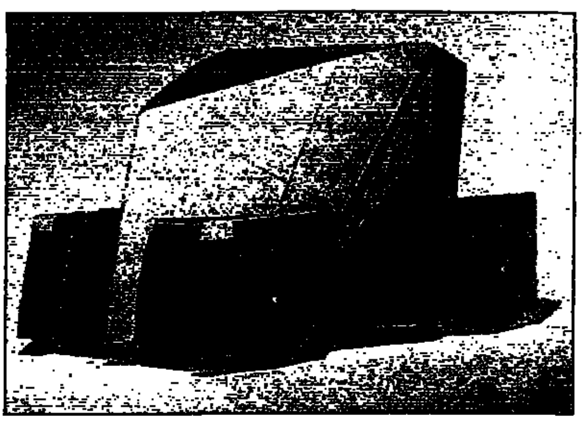
A That's a good question in this country. In France the government offers a £2,000 subsidy to purchasers of electric vehicles and in the US they can get income tax credits worth up to £2,700. The only incentive here is Westminster council's offer of a free parking place.

Q So who has made the greatest progress towards producing a proper electric car?

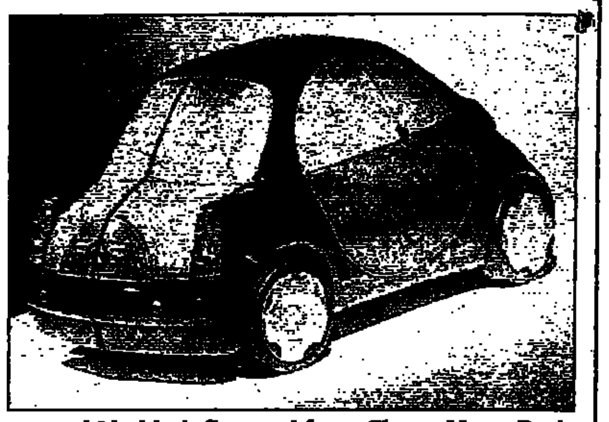
A Mercedes is working hard on the problem, so is General Motors. In France Peugeot/Citroën has been testing the Tulip, a plug-in electric car with a range of 50-60 miles and a speed of 45mph.



Tomorrow's Citroën: bubble-like by Xitij Mistry . . .



. . . coming to a certain point by Bertrand Bach . . .



. . . and Noddy-influenced from Chang Hyup Baek

Shaping up to the future of how Citroën will look

IS IT A bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a loaf of bread . . . or something. When design students are given their heads and told to draw the shapes of cars for the next century, they obviously throw out convention.

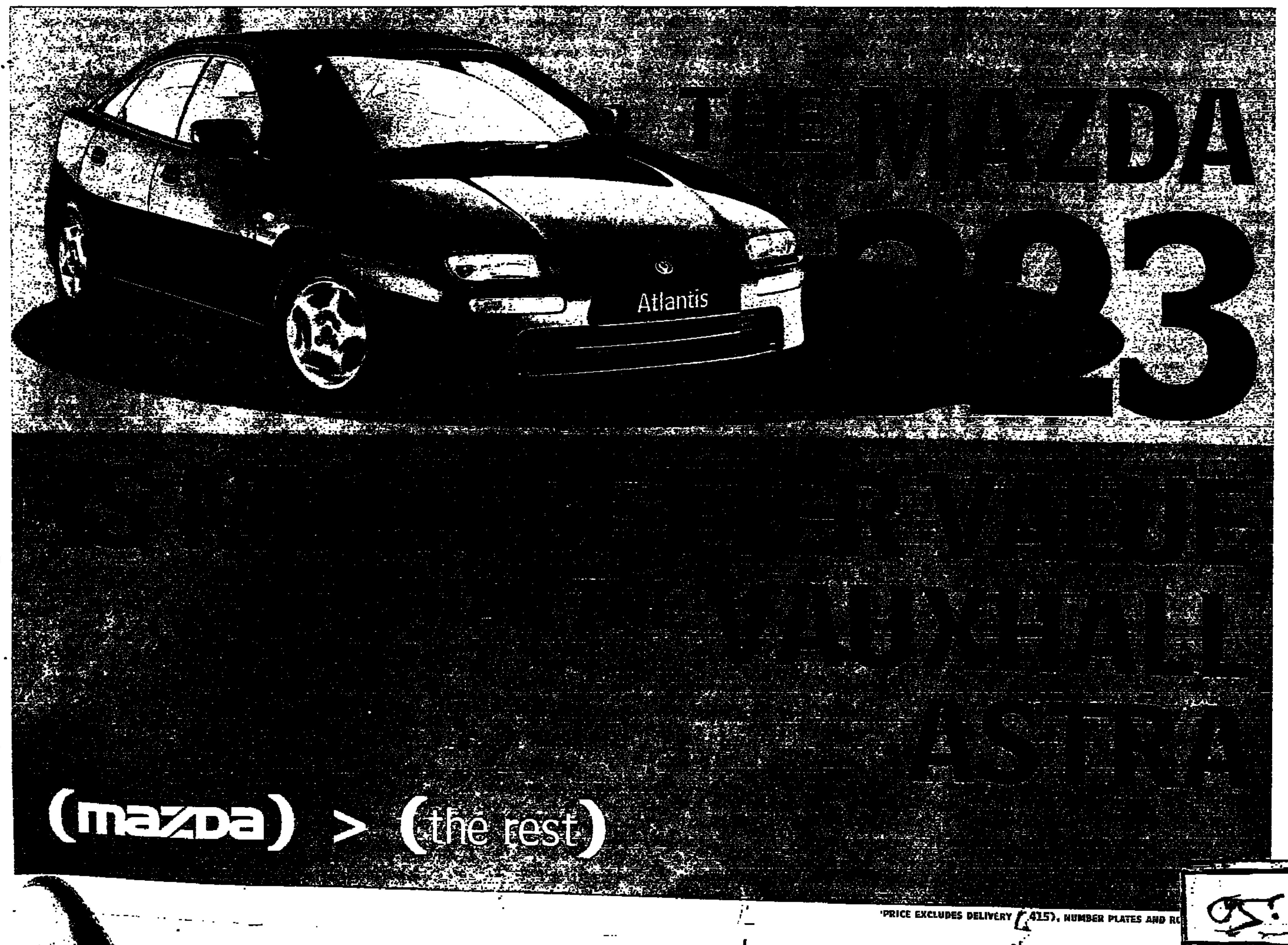
What they replace it with is a matter of conjecture, looking at designs entered by students from the Royal College of Art, *Kevin Eason writes*. They were asked by Citroën to produce "an imaginative and radical interpretation of the Citroën identity in the year 2010, portraying elements of French cultural values as well as an historical appreciation of the marque".

The RCA is probably the top breeding ground for car designers anywhere in the world — but what emerged from the styling exercise would have left most ordinary car buyers slightly more than baffled.

This was clearly car sculpture for the mantelpiece rather than designs for a model in which I would go to the shops. One looked like an upright loaf with eggshall corners, another like a snail on wheels.

The cynic could ask where these designs fit into the daily grind of motoring around crowded streets, with the kids screaming in the back and the Sainsbury's carrier bags tipping over, depositing their contents all over the boot. Come to think of it, the experts could ask that too.

But the students had their reasoning: George Saridakis, 24, from Edinburgh, says of his entry that its forms "reflect the discordant and contrasting nature of French culture, embodying surfaces and implication of volumes to create a personal interpretation of the Citroën spirit". *D'accord*.



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